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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH 2015

Celebrating the Welsh language
See pages 20-21

IN BUSINESS UPDATE FEATURE
Pages 22-23

Fine dining for Valentine's Day
Pages 16-17.

SIX NATIONS: FIRST UP, ENGLAND!
BACK PAGE COMMENT - PAGE 44

Jill Harris (in wheelchair) with friend Wendy Carter, on a Monday Club outing in 2009.

'Dancing queen' Jill was warm and loving

JILLIAN HARRIS – a heartfelt tribute

JILL died on New Year's Day, and we at the Cowbridge Monday Club will miss her very, very much.

Born in Porth y Green, Llanblethian, she had been part of the Cowbridge-Llanblethian area for all of her 51 years.

She was one of the founder members of the club, which was set up in the mid 1970s for those with learning disabilities.

Jill rarely missed one of our monthly Monday evening meetings, and joined in whatever activity was going on with great enthusiasm.

Dancing was a great favourite with her – as she became less mobile her hands took over in time to the music.

She almost always had a smile on her face, and a warm greeting for all.

She was loving and compassionate with those in distress, and cheekily teasing with those who liked a joke.

She loved to act on the club's behalf, thanking those who entertained us, or to make an announcement, speaking with confidence, spirit and sincerity.

Her love for her family and her many friends shone through (rivalled partially by her love of jewellery!).

A few years ago, she settled happily in Quarry Cottage, across from the Edmondes Arms, where she could live with some independence, wonderfully cared for by the staff, yet maintaining close contact with her family and her beloved town.

Her 50th birthday party in The Bear was a joyous event – I don't think her dancing shoes were still all evening.

We extend our sympathy to Jill's mother, Elsie, and to all her family, and we are extremely grateful for their generosity in passing on to the Monday Club the collection from the funeral.

BETTY ALDEN

CHARITY BENEFITS FROM CHURCH'S CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISING EFFORTS!

Parishioners at Holy Cross Church raised funds over the festive period at a number of events, although the highest profile was the Christmas Tree festival.
As a result, Alan Drury, of the Alzheimer's Society, recently visited the church to collect a cheque for £1,000.
He is pictured with (left to right): Pam Roberts, Canon Derek Belcher and Margaret Harris.
(Photograph by MIKE WILCOCK).

Beavers will help create a floral memorial garden

BEAVERS in Cowbridge are doing their bit to brighten up the Old Hall Gardens – and their efforts will go towards gaining their 'environmental partnership badge'.

Along with the Cubs, the next project is to create a floral memorial garden, and they will be working with the Old Hall Garden Volunteer Group, which has set aside a beautiful shaded spot near the pond and next to a bench.

Eluned Moran, the Beaver section leader, told The GEM: "Two hundred native Welsh Narcissi bulbs were ordered from a bulb grower in Pembrokeshire in October. The Beavers and Cubs planted the bulbs into pots to over-winter, with Arthur Johns donating the compost and Cross Farm Nurseries donating the pots.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

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Council's last act would not be good epitaph for Vale

THE decision by the Vale planning committee on the Redrow development in Colwinston is perverse, as it totally ignores numerous planning rules and regulations introduced by the Welsh Government and the Vale Council themselves, in order to avoid unsuitable planning applications being approved.

Evidence was provided about the unsuitability of the site due to flooding, sewerage, drainage, highway infrastructure and the proximity of the local primary school, which adds an element of road safety to the plan.

The report prepared by the case officer was heavily slanted in favour of the application throughout, and one can only assume that the major influences on this decision were:

1. A comment made by the Leader of the Council that "The rural Vale must bear the bulk of development in the future" – despite this comment contradicting a report produced by his own council that clearly shows the area around Barry, Penarth and the coast is in desperate need of new homes.

2. The large amounts of money available from the developer whose application is successful at a time of cutbacks in local government spending.

3. The fear that a successful appeal by a developer against a refusal will have serious cost implications for the council.

This decision, if left unchallenged by the Welsh Government, will result in the destruction of a small rural community that has developed slowly over 900 years.

It is known that the Vale Council will cease to exist in the foreseeable future and I regret that the legacy of this council could well be the rape of the rural Vale and its communities – not a good epitaph for those involved.

Gareth A Jones,
Colwinston.

'Sunday parking fines are mean'

I CANNOT believe the Vale Council – I am absolutely livid! I went to Holton Road, Barry, to shop on Sunday, as usual, parking outside Iceland.

When I came out there was a man taking photos of cars.

When I approached him, he said he was booking all cars parked without blue badges.

I asked when this law came in, as I had always parked there on a Sunday for as long as I could remember.

He said it was enforced last September. Well, every Sunday since September I have done the same every week – with no problem.

He must have booked about 15 cars: shopkeepers were booked and people coming out of church, families, and the elderly.

Pensioners were upset and told me that the only day they could come and get their health products at Holland and Barrett, was a Sunday – because they didn't have to walk.

Surely, councillors, make enough money from everything else. To make money from this is diabolical, and they should be ashamed of yourselves.

The shopkeepers are going to lose out. It was like a ghost town after people were being warned and were leaving.

If they're going to be that mean, they should put up posters saying 'No Parking on Sundays' – or was this a ploy?

(Name and address supplied).

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Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

LETTERS AND E-MAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. An email address alone is not sufficient! We will (*in certain circumstances*) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

MORE LETTERS ON WELSH LANGUAGE ISSUE

'Respect for others only way to keep community strong'

I AM writing in response to the letter published in your newspaper, criticising the use of the Welsh language in your newspaper. I am the owner and founder of Babi Bach – a bilingual music class for little ones teaching English and Welsh through music.

I obviously feel very passionately about the Welsh language and was genuinely shocked to read the anonymous letter criticising your publishing in Welsh in Wales.

I feel that the anonymous writer of the letter is not only ill-informed, but also terribly narrow-minded.

I asked the parents and care givers who bring their little ones to my classes for their responses to the letter and their feedback included: "I pity the misguided author of that article. He (or she) must feel very foolish now. Such a pity that people can't appreciate variety and respect the heritage of the country he's chosen to live in."

– M Williams.

I would like to extend an open invitation to the author of the letter to attend a Babi Bach class and see the amazing effect that being bilingual has on little ones (and their parents) and what it adds to their lives.

Our "insistence on the Welsh language" is, in part, down to the fact that we live in a country that still has its own language that has survived, in various forms, over 1,400 years (old Welsh through to modern Welsh) Why would we choose to disregard such an integral part of our history and culture?

It is mind boggling to think that this person believes Welsh is turning people away from Wales; is French doing that in France?! Or English in England?! I think not.

In respect of Cowbridge having "always been very un-Welsh"– well, that is just wrong! One example: Iolo Morgannwg, the man who made the Eisteddfod into what it is today, spent a large amount of his time in Cowbridge in the 18th century. The plaque in place to remind us of his link to Cowbridge seems as pertinent as ever! "*Y gwir yn erbyn y byd*" – The truth against the world!

The Welsh primary school, named after the man himself in Cowbridge, has about 220 children attending – a fact which speaks volumes about how Welsh Cowbridge is.

I believe the author of this letter needs to learn that respect for others is the only way to keep communities and towns strong and successful. I would welcome them in a class of mine anytime (as soon as he or she has learnt the bit about respect).

Penni Carr,
Barry.

'GEM was wrong to print letter'

REGARDING the anonymous letter in The GEM about Welsh speakers in Cowbridge, I am in my 80s – could this reply also be anonymous please?

My main concern is that the person who wrote the letter has such extreme views that I don't think it was a good idea to print the names of people who have replied, and sincerely hope there will not be any repercussions against the writers.

I really feel you have been rather irresponsible in printing the original letter and can only hope that it was, as a lot of people are saying, written by one of your staff to create a reaction; as obviously if it is anonymous, how can we find out?

(Name and address supplied).

GEM NOTE: As we made clear, The GEM made an exception to our policy of not printing anonymous letters, as a matter of public interest.

We would, if asked, have withheld a respondent's identity (as we have done in this case!)

It is impugning The GEM's integrity to suggest the letter was written by a member of staff. That is simply not the case.

'Waste of time and resource'

ALTHOUGH not agreeing with your recent anonymous correspondent regarding Welsh, he or she has valid concerns and in my view, probably has sympathy from all but a few.

Contrary to popular belief amongst a handful of Nationalists, the Welsh language is heading ever faster to its natural moribund resting place, among other long dead dinosaurs.

The vast majority, (at least 80 per cent) of the population, don't want anything to do with the language.

Plaid Cymru, of course, are inextricably linked to it and are forever doomed to be tarnished with anti-English credentials.

Their desperate desire to impose this language on us in order to create a difference between people in Wales and other people in the UK – where, in fact, one does not exist – is a classic example of being hung by one's own petard.

Why? Because we want to live in the 21st century, in a modern and progressive world – we don't want to wander around the hills 'a-carolling' and reading poems to each other, and we certainly do not want the Welsh language.

It is divisive, parochial, inward looking, anti-green, and a waste of time, money and resources.

The WAG down in Cardiff Bay would never allow us to have our say, which is one more reason why people regard AMs and whatever they do, with complete contempt.

Yes, I'm Welsh – if being born at St David's Hospital, Cardiff, counts.

Peter Reed,
Barry.

Language of Wales!

BEFORE thinking Cowbridge is a foreign import, note the following: this country is WALES. The language is Welsh!

I have just spent 10 years in a land where even the immigration office had no-one who could speak English (or any other language) other than their own – why should they?

I am English and my passion is languages, I use four daily.

Peter Crocker,
St Athan.

Misleading data

AS readers may be aware, many of the enamel bus plates at bus stops give misleading information.

Where I live, the plates still list the non-existent X45 and 145 etc (not in the area anyway) but the posters and fare information is up to date. Hopefully, Cardiff Bus and NAT will update these bus stops.

(***Name and address supplied***).

TORY CHRONICLE: PAPER OR JUST PROPAGANDA?

ARE we living in Wales or North Korea? I have just had a 'newspaper' delivered with no fewer than 11 pictures of our MP, Alun Cairns, in the space of four pages!

On closer inspection, it became clear that, although describing itself and dressed up to look like a newspaper, it is, in fact, a Tory election propaganda sheet.

You have to get to the last page, wading through three pages of self-serving drivel, before the first reference to the 'Conservative Party' appears.

It begs the question, why is Mr Cairns so reticent about mentioning the party he belongs to?

Is it because of the record levels of inequality in our society, with most of his constituents struggling to pay their bills, and the poorest reliant on foodbanks?

At the same time, his Government gives tax breaks to millionaires and shields the greedy bankers and their bonuses.

Mr Cairns has every right to sell his wares as a politician.

Perhaps next time, he could be a little bit more up front about the party he belongs to.

Jeff Evans,
Llantwit Major.

'RIP my old Rhoose friend'

I AM writing to you today in disgust, as I am truly appalled at Rhoose Library closing! Sadly, we have lost a battle, but it was worth the fight!

I am disgusted, as the library meant so much to me and my sister; we went there mostly every weekend.

I can't believe they are actually closing such a lovely place down; the staff were lovely and they always had time to give to help their visitors!

I ask myself the question: "What is this world coming to?"

Everything these days is about the internet; people 'write' to each other on the internet via-Email, and now I guess people are going to read using electronic devices!

I think of those poor, old people who liked to go to the library for company.

What if people can't use the internet and rely on books?

Rest In Peace my old friend, Rhoose library!

Ffion Sara Jeffery,
Penarth.

SEE MORE READERS' LETTERS ON PAGE 16

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL FEBRUARY 12)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
05 Thur	07.22	9.7	19.35	9.5
06 Fri	07.49	9.6	20.07	9.4
07 Sat	08.21	9.5	20.38	9.3
08 Sun	08.52	9.4	21.07	9.2
09 Mon	09.21	9.1	21.39	8.9
10 Tues	09.53	8.8	22.12	8.6
11 Wed	10.27	8.5	22.53	8.2
12 Thur	11.17	8.1	23.51	7.8

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

We abide by the code of practice upheld by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). This contains provisions for issues such as accuracy.

If you have a complaint, write to us at the address below, left, or call editorial manager Don John on 01446 774484. All complaints will be fully investigated. If you are not satisfied with the outcome, you may wish to contact IPSO c/o Halton House, 20-23 High Holborn, London EC1N 2JD. Website: www.ipso.co.uk. Tel: 0300 123 2220. E-Mail: complaints@ipso.co.uk. Enquiries: inquiries@ipso.co.uk.

Suggestions on traffic and speed

LAST week, The GEM reminded readers that some years ago it had campaigned for a 20mph speed limit in Cowbridge.

The police had looked into the matter, but a decision to reduce the limit from the prevailing 30mph was never made.

We asked: "Is it time to revisit the argument? Residents often observe motorists driving at speed, particularly as they leave town at the Eastgate end."

Readers have made a number of points.

Large agricultural and commercial vehicles are a feature of the traffic in high street and David Phillips pointed out: "Is anybody aware that the speed limit for tractors is 20mph?

"This is to be increased to 25mph in March. How many tractor drivers have been prosecuted for exceeding 20mph? Enough said."

Malcolm de Garis said: "I have been very concerned about speed control through the town for some time. Thirty miles an hour is a reasonable limit, but it requires the drivers to obey the limit.

"Would it be better to have the roads painted with a 'speed limit 30mph' for the benefit of both local drivers and visitors?"

Gareth Brown said the bypass had not been well planned.

"It can't be classed as a bypass, because to come from Cardiff to the west end of town, you need to come through the high street.

"This includes large amounts of HGVs not fit to travel through town.

"A simple on and off slip at both ends of the supposed 'bypass' would sort a lot of the traffic problems."

Memorial garden

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Eluned continued: "The idea was inspired by a park that one of the leaders visited in Liverpool, where a corner is called the 'Marie Curie Field of Hope' and is planted up with thousands of daffodils, which the community has sponsored.

"Each spring, it is a riot of yellow and a real joy to behold".

She continued: "The Beavers and Cubs are now selling sponsorship of their bulbs to anyone who would like to take this chance to remember someone.

"The bulbs will cost £3 each and donors can complete a slip of paper naming a person to be honoured, which will be planted with the bulb. As it was Marie Curie Cancer Care that inspired the idea, all proceeds from the bulb sponsorships will go to them".

Bulbs can be bought outside the Town Hall between 10.30am and 12.30pm this Saturday, February 7.

The bulbs will be planted into their new permanent home on Thursday, February 19, close to Valentine's Day.

Elenud concluded: "It is hoped that each year these narcissi will provide an joyful celebration of those we would all wish to remember and honour".

Becoming Poirot!

AT Cowbridge Friendship Club's first meeting of the new year, there was plenty of catching up to do – including the Christmas tree which was displayed in Holy Cross Church during the Christmas Tree Festival, and the Age Connect Christmas party.

If members then thought they were in for a relaxing afternoon catching up on all the the other news, they were very much mistaken!

It was time to put on their thinking caps, and in the words of the Agatha Christie detective Hercule Poirot, use those 'little grey cells' in trying to solve the quiz where all the answers included the word 'red'.

There was much amusement and frustration with some of the clues given to help them along.

Even though no one managed to get all the answers correct, there was certainly plenty of fun and laughter.

Surprisingly, time went by very quickly and then when the snow started to come down thick and fast, it was a quick tea before it was time for members to be taken home.

Meetings are held on the last Thursday of the month,. If you, or someone you know, would like to join please ring 01656 668446 to find out more.

Pat Smith

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THE COWBRIDGE MONDAY CLUB LOOKS BACK ON A VERY BUSY YEAR

THE Monday Club has had another busy and mostly enjoyable year – although, sadly, we have lost two of our regular members, Jane Leonard and Jillian Harries, both of whom died after short illnesses.

They took part so enthusiastically in the club's activities over a good many years (Jill, in fact, from its earliest days, nearly 40 years ago), and we miss them very much; we are so lucky, however, to have enjoyed their company.

Several younger members have joined us over the course of this year, and the club has a good mix of ages and sexes to liven its monthly meetings.

Over the year, as well as the Christmas party with the acrobats, the Harvest Supper and the 'formal' March dinner at the Bear (plus singing and dancing), we have had a storytelling and drama evening, modern dance, outdoor bowls, musical exercises, beetle and bingo, and pottery painting.

In the summer months, we often meet outdoors, and in June, for example, we all visited the Amelia Trust farm.

In July, the Llantwit and Cowbridge Lions (who help us so much with transportation, and join our activities) arranged a trip around the western Vale before giving us a superb supper at the Llantwit Major Beach Café.

How lucky we have been this year with the lovely weather!

At the November meeting, we made decorations for our Christmas tree, which was displayed throughout December at the Holy Cross tree festival.

In June, there was the annual mystery coach trip – this year to the Forest of Dean Heritage Centre. This proved a really popular venue with lots to enjoy, and again the weather was kind (and the food tasty)!

So, we continue to meet together every second Monday of the month between 7.30pm and 9pm, usually in the hall of Ramoth Chapel (accessed from Broadshoard, Cowbridge). This hall has recently been refurbished and is lovely, bright and warm, and we are so grateful to use it.

We welcome all those over 16 years of age with learning disabilities who fancy a sociable evening – we find the ones who join us nervously and shyly usually find their feet (and voices!) pretty quickly, and we always have lots of fun.

The club is run entirely by volunteers, and we are so grateful for donations of financial help to enable us to continue.

Although we have a reasonable number of regular helpers at present, we are always ready to consider more, especially those who might eventually take over the running of the club (those of us doing that are starting to feel our age!).

It is good, though, to have the help of men (the Lions, for example) during the evenings and outings, and also the young students who gain work experience and who relate so readily with the younger club members.

Our annual dinner will again take place next month, March 9 from 7pm in the St Quentin's Suite of the Bear Hotel. Should anyone wish to join us that evening, contact Sue Edwards on 01443 772788.

The charge of £16.25 for the evening includes an excellent meal, as well as a really pleasurable evening's entertainment, and will give you a taste of what we are about!

BETTY ALDEN

Bridge results

RESULTS for Cowbridge and District (Llanbleddian) Bridge Club:

January 6 – First, Judith Nunn and Hugh Williams, 62.70 per cent; second, Mearl Owen and Debbie Rosevear, 56.35 per cent; third, Barbara and Colin Easterbrook, 55.16 per cent.

January 13 – First, Marian East and Hugh Williams, 61.07 per cent; second, Mary Thomas and Denis Barker, 60.36 per cent; third, Mearl Owen and Debbie Rosevear, 58.21 per cent.

January 20 – First, Pauline Lane and Hugh Williams, 60.00 per cent; second, Glenda Roberts and Sara Bartlett, 58.77 per cent; third, Rita Williams and Marian East, 57.50 per cent.

January 27 – First, Judith Nunn and Ann Miller, 61.65 per cent; second, Brenda Grove and Pam Higgs, 58.52 per cent; third, Rita Williams and Marian East, 56.82 per cent. **ME**

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COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

Llangan school

ON Friday, February 6, year-6 will visit Coleridge Comprehensive School to see the show Chicago; and on Saturday, February 7, the pupils and parent will enjoy themselves at the school's PTA winter ball.

Six Nations

GO along to the Treoes Village Hall and enjoy the Six Nations rugby games on screen. The first match is tomorrow (Friday, February 6) at 8pm from the Millennium Stadium.

NICK MERRITT.

OBITUARY
Mr Nick Merritt, Llangan

FRIENDS and neighbours joined the family of the late Mr Nick Merritt (aged 69) at the funeral, which took place at the Mid Glamorgan Crematorium on Tuesday, January 27.

Nick (above) and his beloved wife, Julie, came to live in Llangan 37 years ago and he immersed himself in village life, serving on the Llangan Community Council for many years.

He was employed as a local government officer and did much to benefit the village of Llangan.

He was a kind and generous gentleman and our thoughts at this very unhappy time go to Julie and their children Helen, Howard and Andrew, and their grandchildren, Imogen, Dylan and Harrison.

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SIX PEOPLE WERE KEEN TO OFFER A HELPING HAND!

'Lovely Llantwit' scores top marks with local resident

by TIM CHAPMAN

ABOVE:
Penny relaxing in her garden – one of her great loves: "The happiness of gardening is forgetting about your problems. It is very therapeutic."

A severely disabled woman from Llantwit Major says she was deeply touched by the "wonderful kindness" shown to her when she was in the town centre last week.

Penny McVittie (44) a native of Llantwit, enjoys regular visits to the shopping area, but last week had to contend with stormy weather and concerns about whether she would fall over.

She explained: "Although I'm severely disabled, I very much look forward to going into Llantwit Major in my wheelchair or on crutches.

"This is no easy task at any time, but last week the driving rain and high winds were making it even more difficult than usual.

"As I left Nat West Bank on crutches, the weather made it very hard for me to cross the road."

But Penny need not have worried – local people were keen to lend a supportive hand.

"I was so touched when one of the lovely bank staff hurriedly pulled on her coat to help me make it safely across.

"As we reached the other side of the road, a lovely elderly man called Gordon took over, helping to steer me toward the local chemist shop.

"Along the way, we were joined by yet another kind person – a lady in a pink coat – who helped guide me safely into the chemist.

"This wonderful display of kindness didn't stop there! Two assistants from the chemist insisted on helping me toward my taxi, even as the kind driver from Heritage Cars met us at the shop door.

"I was overwhelmed by the kindness and want to thank each of them for helping me on that dreadfully windy and wet day. I am so glad I live in a town full of such lovely, kind people."

Penny said the generosity of spirit she experienced is not universally offered elsewhere to people with disabilities.

In her opinion, Britain is a good place for a disabled person to live, but she has found people in large cities such as London and New York less sympathetic.

"My neighbours are helpful too – I feel safe in this community. I do fall over sometimes, so it is important to know help is at hand."

Despite her problems Penny has a very positive attitude to life – something she attributes to Buddhism and meditation.

One of the great pleasures of her life is gardening.

"The happiness of gardening is forgetting about your problems. It is very therapeutic. I belong to Thrive, a charity that encourages people with poor health to get involved in horticulture. It has been amazing for me."

Penny has devoted a lot of time to voluntary work over the years – the Amelia Trust, Cubs and Thrive – and is thrilled to have been invited up to Buckingham Palace for a garden party this spring in recognition of her service.

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Churchill's funeral...

...and how Jim stepped into the pages of history

by TIM CHAPMAN

LAST week the nation commemorated the 50th anniversary of Winston Churchill's state funeral, and for a man in Llantwit Major who was part of the guard of honour it brought memories flooding back.

Jim Muir, who works for the town council, was 17-years-old on that chilly January day in 1965.

"I'd joined the RAF at the age of 15 years and eight months – my parents had had to sign a release form.

"At the time of the funeral I was stationed at RAF Binbrook in Lincolnshire. I was part of the guard of honour – in case of ceremonial events such as a royal visit."

Winston Churchill died on Sunday, January 24, 1965, at his home in London following a stroke. By royal decree, his body lay in state for three days at Westminster Hall and a state funeral followed on January 30 at St Paul's Cathedral.

Word came through to Binbrook that its servicemen would be needed at his funeral – the first RAF guard of honour to be invited.

Jim and his colleagues had to travel down to Woolwich, Arsenal, to train with the Army in readiness for the momentous day.

"When we got on the coach to travel down to London, they said two of us didn't have to go. No one stepped off. That's how much it meant.

"On the day of the funeral it was freezing. We were just outside St Paul's next to the Army and facing the route.

"We held our rifles *'rest on your arms reversed'* with the rifle muzzle on your toe and hands on the top of the rifle butt. We bowed our heads as the cortege passed. There were huge crowds and it was a great honour."

The base at RAF Binbrook got a day off as a thank you!

Jim, who left the RAF in 2006, has been able to tell his grandson about the day he stepped into the pages of history.

Ben, aged 18, is a member of the guard of honour at Arborfield the regimental headquarters of 'REME' – the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers of the British Army.

Winston Churchill was buried in a family plot at St Martin's Church, Bladon, a mile from Blenheim Palace where he was born.

Stage Door One lights up stage

PHOTOGRAPHS by BETHANY BARRELL

Young performers from the Vale took to the boards last weekend when Stage Door 1 Youth Theatre performed 'Mother Goose' at St Donat's Arts Centre. More than 70 youngsters were involved and they took part in three performances – Friday, Saturday and Sunday. As you can see from Bethany Barrell's images it was as colourful a panto as you could wish to see!

Golfer claimed he could walk just 50 metres – say prosecution

Report by AJ SICLUNA

A GOLFER claimed more than £26,000 in state benefits after indicating that he could walk only 50 metres in 10-to-15 minutes because of a medical condition, according to the prosecution allegations.

But, Cardiff Crown Court heard prosecutor Stuart McLeese say that investigators from the Department of Work and Pensions, carried out a surveillance operation on 56-year-old Alan Bannister at St Andrew's Major Golf Club, Barry, where he was seen to play a 5,400 metre course in four-and-a-half hours.

This, said prosecutor Stuart McLeese was at odds with what he had told the authorities.

Bannister, of Barry Road, Barry, had won the club championship in 2006 and other tournaments, and with a handicap of 6 to 7, was described as "a pretty good golfer".

Bannister pleaded not guilty to failing to disclose information and obtaining money transfers of £26,090 by deception between October 2004 and July 2012.

Mr McLeese alleged he made dishonest representations to obtain a disability living allowance concerning the extent of his disability and failed to notify the department of these things to access benefits.

He suffered, said Mr McLeese, from ankylosing spondylitis and this was not in dispute, but he failed to record the full effects of this when filling in claim forms.

In May 2007, he said he could only walk 50 metres and it took 10-15 minutes. This effect on him was seven days a week, causing him such severe discomfort that sometimes his wife had to put on his shoes and shirt, and he had problems opening cans and peeling potatoes.

Over the years, it was alleged, his allowances were increased and he once claimed he had to use a walking stick.

But, alleged Mr McLeese, he had not indicated the true position.

The DWP received an anonymous call and began an investigation when they discovered he was a member of St Andrews Major Golf Club.

On July 12, a surveillance was carried out in secret at the club and it was claimed he played the course in four-and-a-half hours.

It was claimed by the prosecution that he played competitive golf and once played five days in a row.

Mr McLeese said he was interviewed by the DWP in July 2012 and admitted he had to report any change in his circumstances, but he said at the time that his condition was "prone to flare ups" and he would only play after taking medication.

The jury was shown a video of him playing golf on the first tee and approaching the 18th green.

The case continues.

VERITY-BELLE FLIES THE FLAG FOR THE LOCAL ROTARY CLUB

The competitors.

FOLLOWING their success in the club round of the Rotary Young Musician competition, three local young people progressed to the area final in Cefn Saeson Comprehensive School in Neath on January 26, representing Llantwit and Cowbridge Rotary Club.

Two out of the four instrumentalists competing were our harpists Ioan Wardhaugh and Caitlin Morris, who attend Cowbridge Comprehensive School and Ysgol Iolo Morgannwg respectively.

In the vocal section of the competition, Verity-Belle Atkinson from Cowbridge Comprehensive School was our representative from a total of five competitors.

In the instrumental section Caitlin, who is 10 years of age, was awarded runner up playing pieces by J C Bach and Felix Godefroid. Ioan played pieces by Handel and Kim Robertson. The winner of the instrumentalist section was a clarinetist from Cwmtawe Community School.

Our vocalist Verity-Belle took first place with three very contrasting songs from the classical, musical theatre and light genres.

Her last piece was 'The Girl in 14g' which gave Verity-Belle ample scope to show her vocal and dramatic flare.

Verity-Belle will go on to represent Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Rotary clubs in the District 1150 final on March 21 in Cowbridge Comprehensive School. **TC**

Verity-Belle Atkinson, Caitlin Morris and Ioan Wardhaugh.

Local club's netball tournament helps with fundraising

LLANTWIT MAJOR Netball Club hosted a fund-raising netball tournament that saw local youths competing against each other.

First on court were the under-17 girls' netball squad v the under-17 youth rugby team. This was a closely fought game and proved to be a better work-out for the boys than they had anticipated.

Next the boys played a re-formed team of 'veteran' netball girls who showed that they had not lost too many of their former skills.

Several other games were enjoyed by the numerous spectators and the event raised a much needed £182 which will be put to good use by both sports' clubs.

Special thanks to Sunkissed Tanning Salon for a generous raffle donation, as well as to Chelsea Dawes for organising the event. **BE**

Free breakfast welcome at Llansannor School

Jane Hutt AM and Coun Chris Elmore are pictured with staff and pupils at Llansannor Primary School

THE latest Welsh Government-funded free school breakfast at Llansannor Church in Wales Primary School, was visited by Vale AM Jane Hutt and cabinet member for schools, Coun Chris Elmore last week.

She spoke to staff and pupils who were enjoying their nutritious breakfast at the start of the school day and reported: "The Welsh Government school breakfast scheme has been enormously popular with pupils, parents and schools throughout Wales.

"It was great to see how enthusiastic the children were about this new start to the school day. Parents also commented how helpful it was for their children, as well as helping with their busy schedules."

Coun Chris Elmore commented that there are now 39 primary schools taking part in the scheme.

Thank you for rescuing Lily!

WITH the help of your newspaper, my family would like to say an extra big thank you to Gary and Sandra Raybould.

There is an awful lot of kindness in the world when you need it. My Basset Hound got out of the gate and Gary and Sandra saw her in Boverton cemetery. She was very frightened, and they closed the gate and stayed with her for an hour.

They rang the vets at Boverton, who told me where Lily was, so they also deserve a big 'thank you'.

I am most grateful, and so is Lily.

Mrs EM Davies,
Llantwit Major.

Bypass failed to solve traffic issues

THERE would be no need for traffic issues through Cowbridge high street if thought had been put into the wasted bypass.

It can't be classed as a bypass because to come from Cardiff to the west end of town you need to go through the high street.

This includes large numbers of HGVs that are not fit to travel through town.

A simple on and off slip at both ends of the supposed bypass would sort a lot of the traffic problems.

Gareth Brown,
Cowbridge.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mayor's Fairtrade coffee morning

THE Mayor of Barry, Coun Jeff Evans will be hosting a Fairtrade coffee morning on Tuesday, February 10, from 10am to 2pm in the council chamber.

All are welcome to attend and enjoy a selection of Fairtrade products, as well as a raffle.

History lecture

THE next meeting of the Dinas Powys Local History Society will be on February 10, in Kynance Hall at 7.30pm.

There will be an illustrated lecture by Jean Harvey entitled 'The Wall Came Tumbling Down – the rise and fall of the Berlin wall.'

An admin fee of £3 for non-members and £1.50 for members will be charged. All are very welcome to attend. Enquiries to Betty Williams (02920 513524).

Family FUN DAY
includes FROZEN THEMED & SUPER HEROES Events
at Cowbridge Leisure Centre,
The Broadshoard, Cowbridge CF71 7DA.
Saturday 7th February 2015 10am-4pm.
COME & MEET SPIDERMAN!
For further enquiries call Sue on 02920 709292.
Find us on Facebook. Frozen & Superheroes Themed Event.

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5-8pm
DINE IN & TAKEAWAY
* TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY*
SUNDAY BANQUET
5 COURSES: £8.50
Midday - 11pm

NEW PLAY WILL TELL THE STORY OF ALFIE AND HIS HOME TOWN!

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

ABOVE: Gareth Thomas and his biographer Michael Calvin, pictured at the Cowbridge book launch.

AN ambitious play that attempts to combine two major local stories opens this month in Cardiff, inspired by the life story of rugby great Gareth Thomas.

The National Theatre Wales production, *Crouch, Touch, Pause, Engage*, opens in the Sherman Theatre on February 23, before going on tour around Wales, concluding at the Sony Theatre in Bridgend College.

In the cast is a Bridgend girl, Katie Elin-Salt, who was one of the star performers in the Bridgend Youth Theatre before embarking on a career in TV and the theatre.

The new play combines two elements: The torment that Gareth Thomas went through before deciding to come out as gay in the macho world of rugby, and the way that his home town of Bridgend was portrayed in 2008 when it was branded the 'suicide capital' of the world.

It was a subject that Gareth Thomas spoke passionately about in Cowbridge in October when he launched his autobiography *Proud: My Story*. He told the audience: "I was approached to do a play about my story, but I felt that I had put everything I felt and thought into the book".

He went on to explain how he had always been so proud of his home town, and that making his debut in the blue and white of Bridgend had been, at the time, the summit of his ambitions.

He said: "I was a postman at the time and just walking around, and having people stop me and ask me about the game was wonderful."

ABOVE: Katie Elin-Salt in rehearsal in London.
Photo by Robert Workman, National Theatre Wales.

The cast get to grips with rugby during rehearsals.
Photo by Robert Workman, National Theatre Wales.

Being part of Bridgend was special, but that all changed in 2008. He said that wherever he went in the world playing rugby, the mention of Bridgend would bring a response along the lines of: "Oh, the place where people kill themselves".

He said: "When I was approached about the play, I said that I was interested in telling my story, alongside the story of Bridgend, but saying something positive about the town that I love."

National Theatre Wales describe the play as about "two Welsh names, bruised but not beaten by media speculation".

In the cast is Katie Elin-Salt, a former star of the Bridgend Youth Theatre (BYT) who, after three years at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, has been making a name for herself in the theatre, with lead roles in *Little Voice* (the Octagon Theatre) and *Educating Rita* (Theatre Clwyd).

Fans of Ruth Jones' *Stella*, on Sky, will remember her as Amy, the hairdresser who got drunk at an awards ceremony, resulting in a wardrobe malfunction!

For Katie, it is the second time she has been cast in a play that touched on the Bridgend suicide story. National Theatre Wales cast her in *Love Steals loneliness*, by Gary Owen, which painted a pretty bleak picture of Bridgend.

In that, Katie's character was a good-natured girl who seemed resigned to a life with limited horizons.

Speaking from London, where the cast are in rehearsals, she told The GEM that *Crouch, Touch, Pause Engage*, was much more positive in tone.

She said: "There is a lot of rugby in the play, so all the cast have been working on tackling and passing.

"We tell Gareth's story – and that of other Bridgend people – in their own words."

The technique, described as "documentary verbatim" has been put together by writer Robin Soans for the Out of Joint theatre company, and is based on interviews with people affected by the suicides.

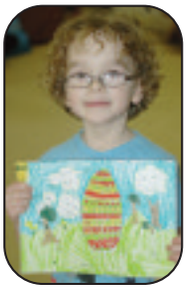
The veteran London producer, Max Stafford-Clark, was keen to direct the show, hence the rehearsals taking place in London.

The cast will soon be in Cardiff, putting the final touches to the show. Previews start on February 19.

The final venue in Wales is in March 26 and March 28, in Bridgend itself, at the Sony Theatre in Bridgend College.

However, that is not the end, as the show then goes on tour around England during the months of April and May!

Llancarfan school pupils' talent show for charity



PUPILS at Llancarfan Primary School held a talent show on Friday, January 30, to raise funds for the school and this year's chosen charity, The Cerys Potter Foundation.

Heats were held in each class in the morning and the top three acts chosen by the children were performed in front of the whole school in the afternoon.

We had an array of acts, which included singers, dancers, comedians, gymnasts, musicians and even an artist! All the pupils who took part showed some amazing talent and everyone had an absolutely fabulous, fun-filled afternoon.

More photographs can seen on Twitter, Facebook and the school website. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped make the afternoon such a success.

Chris Hughes
School Administrator

PIER WORK TO START SOON

A SUCCESSFUL year for Penarth pier and the pavilion is set to continue with additional improvements set for the pier, esplanade and cliff top.

Local contractors are already on site at the pier and esplanade, repainting railings and beginning work on the refurbishment of seating and lighting columns, with options also being considered for new festoon lighting on the pier and esplanade.

The scheme also includes work to enhance the existing highway layout at the junction of Cliff Hill and Marine Parade by replacing the temporary highway infrastructure, as well as refurbishing the cliff-top car park to maximise parking opportunities.

The additional work is planned for mid-February. Penarth won the coveted 'Pier of the Year 2014' award and these additional works are set to enhance the area further.

Additional improvement works are planned for the esplanade but the council will be engaging with the town council, local residents and businesses on final designs.

Vale Council cabinet member for regeneration, Coun Lis Burnett, said:

"This investment is part of a range of initiatives to boost tourism and the continued enjoyment of the pier, the esplanade and the surrounding area for visitors and local residents."

'Welcome to new farmers' meeting

GLAMORGAN branch of the Farmers' Union of Wales is holding an open meeting which will focus on opportunities for new entrants and succession planning ,on Monday, February 16, in the Prince of Wales Inn, Kenfig Hill Bridgend, at 7.30pm.

FUW Glamorgan county executive officer, Rachel Saunders said: "We are looking forward to hosting farm liaison officers Jane Walters and Steve Meredith, and agri-advisor solicitor Dr Nerys Llewelyn Jones as our speakers for the evening. At the end of last year, the annual FUW autumn conference put the spotlight on succession, which is often a taboo subject for farming families, and we are now following up the theme by holding this open meeting."

"The range of opportunities which will be available to young people under the basic payment scheme and rural development plan can be very confusing and I hope this meeting will help to explain the available options.

"I also hope that our more 'mature' members, whose sons and daughters are farming, will also attend the meeting.

"There are plenty of young enthusiastic people who wish to enter the industry and we also know that there are those looking at the future of their farms who don't necessarily wanting to relinquish everything.

"I also hope that we can shed further light on some of the myths and preconceptions about joint venture farming, and help those who have not yet planned their future and who may be interested in more information on the options available to them," she concluded.

Contact the FUW Glamorgan office on 01446 774838 for more information.

The myth of Magna Carta

THE Vale of Glamorgan Association of National Trust Members and Volunteers holds its next meeting on February 18 at 7.30pm in The Duke of Wellington, Cowbridge, a talk by Eliot Watkins entitled 'Magna Carta, the myth behind the truth'.

New members are always welcome, and this should be a particularly interesting talk, especially as it is the 800th anniversary year! JH

Llantwit coffee

THE Mayor of Llantwit Major's coffee morning in support of the local pensioners' group takes place on Valentine's Day (Saturday, February 14) from 10am – 12.30pm in Llantonian Hall, Llantwit Major. Admission £3 per head. Children welcome.

Rapid rethink for Network Rail over St Bride's bridge closure

by PHILIP IRWIN

FURIOUS protests from local businesses and villagers in St Bride's Major have prompted Network Rail into a rapid rethink of plans to close a bridge for five months while repairs take place.

ABOVE: Jane Hutt and Coun Elmore discussed the issue with villagers over coffee.

ABOVE: Alun Cairns and members of the community were angry about the situation.

In a statement, a Network Rail spokesperson said: "Following concerns raised by the local community, MP and AM regarding our plans to replace St Brides Road Bridge, Ewenny, we are reviewing our work programme to investigate opportunities to reduce the overall time the bridge is closed".

Last week, the GEM spoke to Mark Lewis, the landlord of the Fox and Hounds, and Sam Smith, who runs the Mace shop and post office, and both were horrified at the prospects of surviving for five months without passing trade.

Neither disputed the necessity of the work, but they were dismayed at the lack of consultation, and very worried that Network Rail did not appear to have considered the question of compensation.

Work was due to start this week – closing the road – but that has not happened.

The Network Rail spokesperson added: "We hope to confirm the road closure as soon as possible. In the meantime, the bridge is open to traffic."

Last week, Vale AM Jane Hutt and Vale MP Alun Cairns both came along to meet villagers, and they took up their case immediately.

Jane Hutt called for minimum closures of the road and compensation for businesses affected.

She was joined by Coun Chris Elmore, who is Labour's parliamentary candidate in the Vale, who said he would be liaising directly with the Vale Council to emphasise the need for support for the local businesses and services, such as the school.

Alun Cairns called for the postponement of the project after meeting with Network Rail in Westminster, and the community in Ewenny and St Brides Major.

During the meeting with Network Rail, Mr Cairns said that the local community had not been sufficiently advised of plans, with little or no signage surrounding the area, and a very short notice period. He said that the five month period of closure was unacceptable to local businesses and the village.

Jane Hutt said that residents had voiced concerns about the impact on St Brides Major of the lorries needing to get to and from the quarries.

She also met Network Rail chiefs, saying: "I will be pressing for support for St Brides Major village on all fronts".

Mr Cairns said he had contacted Wales and West Utilities, Arriva Trains, building contractor Balfour Beatty and the Vale Council to request that the new bridge scheme timings be reassessed.

He said: "I am so angry that the communities in and around Ewenny and St Brides Major are facing such an enormous period of disruption with so little consultation.

"Giving a community just a few weeks' notice of such a major infrastructure project is completely unacceptable, and I have asked Network Rail to review their procedures and working practices for future projects".

The Vale Council is also involved in the project. Its operational manager for highways, Michael Clogg, said: "The new bridge design will not only ensure future access along the B4265, but will provide a significant improvement by eliminating the existing single-lane restriction over the railway and increasing its load carrying capacity, enabling it to support two lanes of traffic and a pedestrian footway.

"This will offer significant advantages to the travelling public, residents, and businesses in the area by both reducing journey times and improving highway safety.

"During any road closure a diversionary route will be clearly signposted to ensure disruption is kept to a minimum.

"The council is working to ensure that the diversion route provides the most suitable alternative and convenient access to St Bride's during the construction phase and will be undertaking any necessary maintenance and improvement works to the route prior to any closure of the bridge, as well as closely monitoring the route during the construction phase.

"Network Rail and the Vale Council apologise for any inconvenience caused during these essential works and will do everything possible to minimise disruption by reducing the overall time the bridge is closed."

Mark Lewis of the Fox and Hounds was very pleased with the news. He said: "The Six Nations is a very busy time for us, so this is really good news for us."

Jane Hutt said: "Businesses in St. Brides Major rely on the through traffic customers and the disruption for the school will also be significant.

"Minimising temporary closures will be vital and compensation for loss of business must be considered. I therefore welcome this announcement and hope that a positive way forward can be found".

Alun Cairns said: "I am pleased that Network Rail will delay the closure. I expect the time for this project to be significantly reduced, and have written to all parties involved on behalf of residents to express the strength of feeling on the matter.

"The postponement gives the community time to make plans for the closure, and I will continue to work with Network Rail on a daily basis to minimise the disruption for the communities surrounding the bridge".

THE BRITISH LEGION THANKS VILLAGERS

Roy Goodwin with Jan Parry and local Royal British Legion supporters. (Photograph by **IAN DIXON**).

IN January, Mr Roy Goodwin, the Poppy Appeal organiser for the Barry Royal British Legion, came to Peterston-super-Ely to thank villagers for their fundraising efforts.

He presented Jan Parry, chair of the community council, with a certificate, (ABOVE) thanking villagers and local businesses for raising £2,230 for the 2014 appeal.

In his speech, he stressed the importance of local organisations and individual poppy sellers British Legion's activities.

Hard morning's work for Llantwit Major under-10s

LLANTWIT MAJOR under-10s were again out and about, this week to Bridgend Sports, to play a round robin with them and Valley Ravens.

First match for Llantwit was against the Valley Ravens. Llantwit started really strong, scoring a very quick four tries. This did not stop the Ravens, they came at Llantwit hard and fast, creating openings, and making Llantwit defend well.

The Ravens kept the pressure on and were able to open their score line with a great running try. The play was quite scrappy, with a few penalties on both side, but it was the Ravens who were keeping the ball play more than Llantwit, and they were next to score.

Llantwit were rucking well, started gaining turnover ball, opening play up enough to score another three times. The Ravens fought back, and were able to break through Llantwit's defence once more, but it was Llantwit who had the final say of the match, making the final score **Valley Ravens 3, Llantwit Major 8.**

Try scorers: Caleb (two), Rhys G (two), Sam H, Dylan M, Sam A and Rhys D.

Llantwit were straight back on the pitch for their match against Bridgend Sports, and what a nail-biting match this was!

ABOVE and INSET: Llantwit Major under-10s were in action on Sunday.

Both teams were out for a win. It was Bridgend who were first to score, bursting through Llantwit's usually strong defensive line. Llantwit, who are not used to playing catch up, were getting frustrated, and this allowed Bridgend to score twice more.

It was through Llantwit's grit and determination and some awesome tackling, that they were able to get the scoreline to 3-2 at halftime.

After a serious team talk, both teams were back on the extremely muddy pitch, to play some tough rugby.

Great rucking and a strong defence kept Bridgend away from their try line. Llantwit worked really hard, and after some great play were able to score in the corner to make the final score **Bridgend Sport 3, Llantwit Major 3.**

A very tough physical draw. Well done to all the boys who played.

Try scorers: Josh, Dylan M and Owen.

Man of the match was awarded to Caleb, for his awesome play at the breakdown.

Squad: Tom Roberts, Logan Pike, Sam Harry, Iwan Thomas, Owen Hill, Dylan Morgan, Caleb Beare, Rhys Greenaway, Jamie Jenkins, Aneurin Price, Rhys Davies, Olly Williams, Will Squance, Sam Alexander, William Harrison-Watt, Josh Wakeham, Corey Lougher, Cristian Parry, Dylan Wright, Finn O'Brien and, making his debut for Llantwit, Ollie Jenkins. **SR**

Council bans sky lanterns

THE Vale Council has become the seventh authority in Wales to agree a ban on sky lanterns.

The ban applies to the release of sky lanterns from all council-owned land, including schools, and would also apply to events organised by third parties held on council property.

Coun Neil Moore, Leader of the council, said: "As well as posing a significant fire hazard and being a form of litter, the lanterns pose a real danger to pets, wild animals and livestock that may ingest the remains after they fall to ground.

"It is for these reasons that I am very happy to announce that we have taken the decision to ban the use of sky lanterns on all council land."

RSPCA Cymru's public affairs manager, Chris O'Brien, said: "This is great news for local wildlife, livestock and other animals.

"We're delighted to work closely with Vale Council in the interests of animal welfare, and welcome that they have taken this important step, meaning almost a third of local authorities in Wales have acted against the use of sky lanterns."

The Vale Council now joins Cardiff, Caerphilly, Carmarthenshire, Conwy, Neath Port Talbot and Pembrokeshire in introducing a ban.

Question time on Island regeneration

YEAR-9 pupils from Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg in Barry quizzed Vale MP Alun Cairns about the regeneration of Barry Island after the students researched plans announced by funfair operator Henry Danter.

Mr Cairns explained the work done to bring parties together for the benefit of visitors to Barry Island. He commented: "The regeneration of Barry Island is such a symbolic project, with both pupils and teachers keen to see the area redeveloped. I am happy to discuss any project that will benefit Barry and the wider Vale – and it was very pleasing to see such in-depth research and interest undertaken by the year-9 students."

Benefits advice

DO you live in the Vale and need advice on benefits such as pension credit attendance allowance housing benefit or disability living allowance?

Age Connect Cardiff and Vale, a welfare rights service can help you with these issues.

An adviser will be available to chat to you on any of these benefit issues, and help with form filling. A session is being held on Tuesday, February 10 from 9.30am to 11.30am at The Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry.

You can make an appointment by calling into the shop, contact 01446 732385 or call in on the day. Home visits can also be arranged.

Mud, mud, glorious mud – AND SIGNS OF SPRING!

THE Vale of Glamorgan Ramblers met in Cowbridge Town Hall car park, before making our way to St Fagan's Museum for an eight-mile walk in the local area.

The weather was cold, but it was a dry sunny day, as we made our way out of the museum grounds, and crossing under the busy link road, walked across the fields to the village of St George.

The snowdrops and daffodils we saw on the way were a welcome sight, as an indication that spring is on its way. The walk leaders were Mike Carey and Adrian Rowe. In the write-up prior to the walk, it was mentioned that there would be plenty of mud – it didn't disappoint as there was plenty of mud as we crossed the various fields!

Enjoying lunch in peace and tranquillity within earshot of the busy motorway, we were reminded how fortunate we are to have such fantastic walking opportunities on our doorstep.

Ty Du was the most northerly point of the walk – it was the point where we had friendly cows coming to say hello, and the miniature ponies who again were very inquisitive and friendly.

Before we knew it, we were on our way down towards the start point at St Fagan's.

Further information is available on valeofglamorganramblers.co.uk or visit our Facebook page.

Gwenda Fitzpatrick.

LEGAL ADVICE

AGE Connect Cardiff and the Vale is holding a free legal advice session at The Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry on Tuesday, February 10 (10am – 12 midday).

If you are over 50 and worried about a legal matter, other than criminal law, chat to a local legal team based in Barry. This service is run monthly and no appointment is needed. Contact 01446 732385 for further information.

THE BIG Fill
The BIG Fill Schedule - February
Stanwell - 14 and 15 February
Plymouth - 28 February and 1 March
Let us know of any potholes in your ward from Monday through to Friday prior to the weekend shown above
VALE of GLAMORGAN
BRO MORGANNWG
Tackling potholes across the Vale
Tel: 01446 700111 Email: thebigfill@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk Visit: www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
CONTACT US THE WEEK BEFORE WE ARE IN YOUR WARD

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WALES IS GOING FOR GREEN GROWTH... AND CURB ON FRACKING

THIS week, I have been speaking at a conference in Cardiff about our Wales Infrastructure Investment Plan and its links to 'green growth' – which is a crucial aspect of our commitment to sustainable development in Wales.

The Europe 2020 ten-year growth strategy has green growth at its heart and the funding we get from the European Union is predicated on moving towards green growth and low carbon economies.

In Wales we are already undertaking considerable 'green investment' in both the private and public sectors. Sustainable waste management is just one example.

Since 2009, the Welsh Government has facilitated the procurement of waste treatment infrastructure by local authorities to enable Wales to meet its EU waste diversion targets and national statutory recycling targets.

The investment has been through two programmes – the food and organic waste programme and the residual waste programme. Already, these have secured significant economies of scale and savings against future costs, amounting to over £5.5 million on food waste and over £500 million on the residual waste programme.

Congratulations to the Vale of Glamorgan Council for their significant achievements in driving forward their recycling policies resulting in higher recycling and helping to create a green Wales economy.

At a recent visit to St Brides Major School with cabinet member for schools, Coun Chris Elmore, we talked to pupils who had been recognised that week for championing the schools eco rules and their commitment to protecting the environment was clear.

I am also responsible for the Welsh Government 'Invest to Save' fund, which provides interest-free loans to support projects in the public sector, with a ring-fenced allocation for projects which help Wales achieve our carbon reduction targets.

The introduction of energy-saving efficiencies, such as LED lighting in the Children's Hospital is saving money to put to the front line in our NHS in Wales.

Our prospectus for Green Growth in Wales sets out how in Wales we offer a unique wealth of natural resources combined with significant investment in our infrastructure in resource efficiency, renewable energy generation and waste products.

In our Budget for 2015-16, I have also committed £5 million to provide practical and technical support for Green Growth projects, particularly in the public sector.

Alongside this drive towards Green Growth in Wales we have a number of developments we are supporting such as the exciting Tidal Lagoons Project in Swansea Bay, and our focus on Marine Energy is reflected in our Wales/Ireland Programme which has just received approval for a new £80million round of funding over the next phase of EU support.

Last week, First Minister, Carwyn Jones AM made a commitment in response to questions about the Welsh Government's response to fracking in Wales, which is of considerable interest in the Vale of Glamorgan.

At present, the Welsh Government does not have the powers to grant licences for fracking – this power rests with the UK Government.

The First Minister said he wants to see the power to grant licences devolved to Wales. Wales can then consider an effective moratorium on fracking.

ASSEMBLY NOTES

by **Jane Hutt AM** *(Minister for Finance)*

The Llansannor LAMBS hear tales of the Bridgend arsenal

AN audience of over 30 local people was in Llansannor Community Hall on January 27 for an event organised by the LAMBS local history group: an illustrated talk by Michael Clubb on Bridgend arsenal, a major Royal Ordnance factory during the Second World War.

A former history teacher at Brynteg School, Mr Clubb has published a book on the arsenal.

The speaker delivered a highly informative and entertaining talk recounting the extraordinary story of what was the largest war factory in Britain.

Little trace of the factory now remains although the South Wales Police building was once the arsenal HQ.

The factory employed over 30,000 people who came from all parts of Glamorgan every day by train and by bus. Mr Clubb's amusing anecdotes about individual staff personalities vividly brought the factory back to life.

The arsenal was a filling factory that dealt with volatile and dangerous materials. Inevitably there were explosions: some died, others were terribly injured, but, as Mr Clubb said, for most employees the experience was enjoyable and even liberating.

The talk was enthusiastically received, and Jim Duffield thanked the speaker on behalf of the LAMBS group for providing such a stimulating evening. MB

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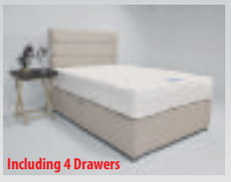

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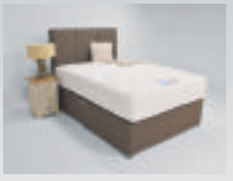

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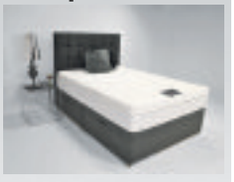

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Fundraising gala raises £2,000 for Ty Hafan

LEFT:
Rebecca Chick, business and community fundraiser at Ty Hafan and Vic Thomas, operations director at FCA Cymru.

FOSTER Care Associates (FCA) Cymru recently held a fundraising gala dinner in aid of Ty Hafan children's hospice in Swansea, raising £2,000.

Vic Thomas, operations director at FCA Cymru, visited Sully to present a cheque to Rebecca Chick, business and community fundraiser at Ty Hafan.

The annual event is the highlight in FCA Cymru's fundraising calendar, and was attended by generous local businesses and carers from all across south Wales who raised the cash through auctions, raffles and donations on the night.

Auction prizes included tickets to warm-up games for the Rugby World Cup and signed Welsh rugby and football shirts, all helping to lift the fundraising total.

Vic Thomas said: "It was an absolute privilege to organise a fundraising event for this wonderful organisation and recognise the amazing work Ty Hafan do for children with life limited illnesses and their families. I know the money raised will be used to continue to support their fantastic work."

Rebecca Chick, business and community fundraiser at Ty Hafan, said: "We are incredibly grateful to FCA Cymru for organising a gala dinner and raising a fantastic amount of money for Tŷ Hafan.

"We need to raise £3.7m each year to support life-limited children and their families from across Wales.

"We simply couldn't continue to provide our services without the generosity and kindness shown by the public and organisations like FCA Cymru."

For more information on becoming a foster carer with the FCA, call 0800 023 4561 or visit www.thefca.co.uk.

SULLY WAR VETERAN FEATURES ON *EGGHEADS*

EILEEN Younghusband BEM, 93, author of *One Woman's War* and *Men I Have I Known* appeared on BBC2's *Eggheads* this week.

Eileen, who lives in Sully, featured alongside fellow winners of the People's Book Prize.

She said: "I've always been a fan of the Eggheads and was really pleased to be asked, especially to be alongside esteemed contestants such as Frederick Forsyth, Amy Elliott-Smith, Griselda Heppel and Giles Paley-Phillips."

The programme, which was recorded last year, was shown on Monday, February 2 at 6pm.

Her People's Book Prize-winning memoir *One Woman's War* reveals the truth about the forgotten wartime women, who, barely out of their teens, were given an awesome responsibility. Working against the clock, they calculated the targets of the Luftwaffe's bombing fleets from information supplied by Britain's pioneering radar network.

Hospital bids farewell to lead chaplain

A NEW chapter is about to be written in the life of a 'pillar of the hospital community', who is retiring after 20 years service to patients.

Lead chaplain Avril Daffydd-Lewis has been an important part of life at University Hospital of Llandough for a number of years, but has chosen to retire to pursue her goal of becoming a successful author.

She has already won the backing of a New York Times bestselling author, who has agreed to become her mentor.

Friends, family and colleagues joined Avril for a retirement lunch at the hospital chapel.

Peter Welsh, the general manager at UHL, paid tribute to Avril's role in hospital life.

He said: "What an impact she has had here at Llandough. If there's one person who is known throughout the hospital it is Avril. The support she has given to staff is incredible – we can't thank you enough in that respect.

"There is a sense of community here and Avril is a real pillar of that and we are all really sorry to see you retiring, but we are sure we will see her again."

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Penarth Library Outreach Every Tuesday 2pm-4pm

Vale People First says 'thank you'

VALE People First 'Real Lives' held a coffee morning at the Civic Offices in Barry to raise awareness of their healthy change project.

We want to make health services more accessible and influence how we would like to be treated, we want to be heard.

The mayor and mayoress kindly offered their help by inviting us to the Civic Offices in Barry.

Not only did we raise awareness of the project but we raised £400 to help Vale People First continue to support people with a learning disability to have their say. Thank you to all who supported the event.

Geoff Davies (Real Lives facilitator)

Roma the Beagle.

The GEM has joined forces with the Dogs Trust to find suitable homes for inmates at the Bridgend rehoming centre.

ROMA NEEDS TIME TO SETTLE!

ROMA is a Beagle who is around three-years-old and initially came into the centre in a terrible state, having been found as a stray, but has come into her own with some 'TLC'.

She mixes well with other dogs and shows more of her personality when she is with them, so it is essential that she goes to live with another well-adjusted dog already in the home.

New owners will need some dog experience and multiple visits are required to get to know her. She just needs time and space to settle into her new home.

If you can offer Roma a home, please call 01656 725219; or pop into Dogs Trust Bridgend, we are open 12pm – 4pm every day except Wednesday.

LINDA FEAGAN (Supporter Relations officer Dogs Trust Bridgend)

Valeways walks

ON Tuesday, February 10 at 1.30pm, 'The Lake in the Woods', starting at Hensol Forest car park, Welsh St Donats.

On Wednesday, February 11 at 10.30am, the coffee shop strollers meet at Romilly Cafe, Cold Knap, Barry.

On Tuesday, February 17 at 10am, Hoffi Cerdded, Hoffi Coffi starting at Cowbridge Library.

On Wednesday, February 18 at 10.30am, the coffee shop strollers meet at the visitor centre, Cosmeston Country Park, Penarth.

On Thursday, February 19 at 10am, 'To the coast and a windmill (seven miles)' starting at the Plough and Harrow pub car park, Monknash.

'Ski trips' with a difference

THE new year saw a number of new members join the Vale Photographic Club – ranging from absolute beginners right through to experienced photographers.

All have been treated to a variety of outstanding talks and exhibitions, which have taken us on a photographic tour of the world.

Award-winning photographer Margaret Salisbury described her recent 'SKI' trips (SKI in this instance standing for 'Spending the Kids' Inheritance'). Each photograph was accompanied by an engaging narrative of the countries she visited, the kindness of the people she met, and the challenges faced in taking her photographs.

Gareth Martin showed how a single photograph, a simple idea, or even a passing comment could spark an entire body of prints (known as a photographic panel), showing captivating images of well known locations including Margam Woods and the Neath Valley.

Finally, club member Mike Baker took us on a whistle-stop tour of his recent trip to the States.

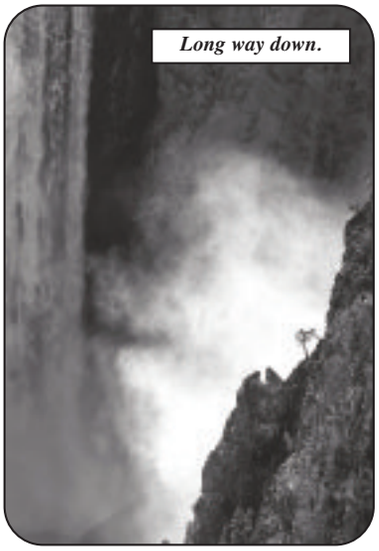
Mike and his wife travelled through some of the USA's most dramatic landscape including Yellowstone, Zion and Bryce canyons, Denver, Cody, The Valley of The Gods and Route 66.

Highlights for the month ahead include a number of competitions – a great way to challenge yourself and improve your photography skills, and an exploration of the challenges and rewards of street photography.

For further information on the club, which is open to ages 16 and over, visit our website at www.vale-photographic-club.co.uk, or simply turn up to a club evening – we meet every Friday from September to July at 7:15pm in the Ystradowen village hall.

Whether you're looking to develop your skills as a serious photographer, just starting out with a new camera, or simply looking to take better photographs of the kids, you'll be most welcome.

Andrew Coleman



Long way down.

Pictures by Mike Baker of his recent trip to the United States.

Sony plant gears up for Raspberry demand

PENCOED-based Sony UK Technology Centre (UKTEC) has announced it has more than quadrupled its production of the latest Raspberry Pi, a credit-card-sized single-board computer.

It is increasing production from 18,000 units to 80,000 units per week to cope with the expected level of demand of the next-generation Raspberry Pi 2, launched world-wide this week.

The Raspberry Pi has been developed by non-profit Raspberry Pi Foundation, and is a credit-card sized computer designed to stimulate young people's interest in computer programming and electronics.

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Health worker thanked after tending to the injured after collision on M4

AN off-duty health worker has been thanked for her actions tending the injured at the scene of a serious crash on the M4 on January 24.

Sue Salvatore-Davies was on her way to the Midlands when she saw the multiple-vehicle collision ahead of her.

The senior healthcare support worker at Morriston Hospital's Ty Olwen hospice immediately pulled over to see what she could do to help.

Sue looked after the injured until the emergency services arrived – remaining on the scene for more than three hours.

The incident, which happened on the motorway near Cardiff, involved a coach and four cars.

It resulted in 28 people being taken to different hospitals – almost half of them going to Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend.

Fortunately, there were no life-threatening injuries, but there was considerable traffic disruption.

Sue, who was travelling from her Porthcawl home to visit her father in Coventry, said: "I couldn't just drive past knowing people were injured.

"There was a lady in a crushed car. I went straight across to her. She was semi-conscious and I was there with her, along with an off-duty fireman.

"I was trying to get her to do breathing exercises and asking her name to keep her conscious.

"Someone said there were a lot of people on the bus so, once I knew the lady was okay, I went on the bus.

"There were people all over the bus – in the aisles because they had been thrown out of their seats. They were injured. A lot of them had neck injuries with whiplash. They were all pensioners.

"I wrote down the numbers and did a quick recce of what was wrong.

"I couldn't get to the back of the bus, so I went outside and in again through the emergency door. The people in the back were injured, too."

Drawing on her years of healthcare experience, Sue calmed the injured pensioners, administered basic first aid and got blankets and coats for those who needed them.

When medics arrived, she was able to tell them which passengers were the most seriously injured.

Sue also helped the paramedics get the casualties from the bus using stretchers and chairs. She didn't leave until the last passenger was safely taken from the coach – more than three hours later.

After that, she continued on her journey to Coventry.

The bus company has since publicly thanked all those who helped in the aftermath of the crash.

Sue, a district healthcare support worker with Marie Curie for 17 years, has been with the hospital palliative care team, based in Ty Olwen, for the last three and a half years.

She said: "The bus company owner rang me up and said he wanted to thank me for what I did for the passengers.

"He said they had been asking him about who the nice lady on the bus was.

"Because I'm in specialist palliative care, I speak to patients and families, so I was able to talk to them and calm them down."

Sue Salvatore-Davies

70th anniversary of 'The Welsh Great Escape'

MARCH will see the 70th anniversary of 'The Welsh Great Escape' from the World War Two German prisoner of war camp at Island Farm in Bridgend.

To commemorate this, the Hut 9 Preservation Group will be staging a special anniversary event over the weekend of March 7 and 8.

The locked doors of the hut that was the scene of the German Great Escape in March 1945 will be open to the public.

Members of the preservation group, dressed in period uniforms, will give talks and guided tours inside the hut, which is usually closed to visitors. World War Two vehicles will also be on site.

The group has worked hard over the past year to kit out several of the rooms as they would have appeared during the Second World War and previous visitors will be able to see the extent of these improvements.

A replica guard tower is being constructed, as well as a replica escape tunnel for families to try out their hands at escaping. A free vintage bus will be running between the Science Park and the main entrance, so visitors who have pre-booked should park in the area of the Science Park.

Entry is free but donations on the day to the Hut 9 voluntary group, which is seeking to assure the future of the site, are welcomed. Full access to the hut is dependent on the weather and restrictions may apply in order to conserve its fabric and contents.

Spaces on these free tours are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. To reserve a space, please book now. Email bookings are preferred – conservation&design@bridgend.gov.uk.

The group's website address is: www.hut9.org.uk **JPH**

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Out and About with The GEM

Paul Thomas Anderson's *Inherent Vice* is eccentric, rambling and highly enjoyable

WHEN news spread that Joaquin Phoenix was set to retire from acting in 2008, it seemed a shame that one of the most talented and watchable actors of his generation was leaving the world of film behind.

It later turned out to be a ruse cooked up to promote mockumentary *I'm Still Here*, which meant that Phoenix wasn't turning his back on his profession.

Since then, Phoenix has top lined Spike Jonze's clever tech-love story *Her*, and found himself Oscar-nominated for his role opposite the later Philip Seymour Hoffman in Paul Thomas Anderson's *The Master*, and he teams up with Anderson again for Thomas Pynchon's adaptation, *Inherent Vice*.

Phoenix plays private detective Larry 'Doc' Sportello, who gets caught up in the troubles of his ex-girlfriend Shasta (Katherine Waterston). Her love, tycoon Mickey Wolfmann (Eric Roberts), has a wife who may be plotting to commit him to a mental hospital, and when Mickey and Shasta both disappear, Doc has to use his investigative powers to solve the case...

Clocking in at just just shy of two and a half hours, Paul Thomas Anderson's stab at bringing Thomas Pynchon's dense and complex *Inherent Vice* to the big screen certainly doesn't rush itself; yet the shaggy dog nature of the story doesn't create a film that is necessarily needing such a luxurious run time.

Consequently, how you respond to *Inherent Vice* will depend on your feelings towards Anderson as a writer/director, the classy, quality cast and how much of the eccentric nature of the story you can handle.

Being a huge fan of Anderson means that certain elements of the film pass without overt criticism: the slow pace; the unwieldy and unyielding story that takes the phrase 'round the houses' and spins it out of control; the fact that by the time the lights come up you're not really any wiser than you were come the lights going down – but there is much to love about the film.

Anderson's films have always taken a skewed look at society, from *Boogie Nights'* dark underbelly of the adult film industry, to *There Will Be Blood's* searing study of a man driven by greed and guilt, and *Vice*, though not written by him, also fits this template.

It's ostensibly a potboiler, a detective story viewed through the prism of the counter-culture of 1970, but look closer and you'll see the same fault lines you see in the aforementioned *Boogie Nights*; everything is groovy on the surface until you dig deeper and then it's going one way.

It feels like a stoned *Chinatown*, the film having the look of the sun-kissed noirs that popped up in the decade it is set, but the wry humour that runs throughout the film makes it feel like a natural bedfellow to Robert Altman's attempt to take on a literary giant in 1973's *The Long Goodbye*.

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

Altman battled Chandler where Anderson is battling Pynchon (not the first time Anderson has found himself in the same vaunted breath as Altman).

To even take a stab at adapting Pynchon for the screen is a bold one, but one he doesn't make a bad fist of; he uses voiceover to try and hold things together (though often the voiceover misleads as much as what you see on screen), and languidly takes you through the episodic structure of the story, again even if the source material seems determined to keep you one step behind.

The cast is incredible, with Joaquin Phoenix's bumbling Doc a wonderful creation, part private eye, part cartoon character, and one Phoenix essays with style and subtlety.

It's a performance that needs to be pitched right – play it too comedically and you lose the drama, play it too seriously and you risk missing out on the knowing element of the character, but it's a line Phoenix treads with ease.

Josh Brolin is a perfect foil for him, playing flat-topped detective Bigfoot with all the disdain and hatred such a character would have for a character like Doc.

Straight-faced though not without humorous embellishment (Bigfoot is a member of the Screen Actor's Guild, and has bit parts in various TV shows and commercials), Brolin is the perfect fit for the character and hits the right notes.

The likes of Katherine Waterstone, Joanna Newsome, Benicio Del Toro and Owen Wilson (to only name four) shine in a starry ensemble that is very Altman-esque.

As touched upon, the true pleasure in *Inherent Vice* is not getting too caught up in proceedings; you can engage in it, but attempting to dig deeper and see what lies under the surface will only leave you feeling shortchanged.

Try to keep up with it and you'll become frustrated and annoyed; allow it to wash over you and you'll be more than entertained.

VERDICT – As likely to satisfy as it is to frustrate, *Inherent Vice* works if you don't find yourself thinking too hard about it. This may seem an odd thing to say, but logic here doesn't come top of the list of priorities. Instead, Paul Thomas Anderson guides his superb cast though Thomas Pynchon's minefield with style and humour. *Recommended*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Boogie Nights* (1998), *The Long Goodbye* (1973).

EVENTS AT ST·DONATS

Cinema: North by Northwest
Thu 5 Feb, 7:30pm
Tickets: £5.00

Ceilidh: Thingimijigs
Sat 7 Feb, 7:30pm
Tickets: £8.50 / £6.50 conc / £2.50 child

Cinema: The Hundred Foot Journey
Mon 9 Feb, 2:00pm
Tickets: £4.50 to incl a serving of tea or coffee & biscuits

Mother's Day: Cream Tea
at St Donat's Castle (as seen on Wolf Hall)
Sun 15 March, 2-5pm. Tickets: £9.95 / £6.75 child

Concert: Steve Howe
Fri 17 Apr, 7:30pm
Tickets: £21.50 / £20.00 conc

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Vale of Glamorgan, CF61 1WF

Make a movie date at St Donats!

IT'S never too late to start your New Year resolution, so why not make attending our weekly cinema screenings one of yours?

If you missed any recent big box office releases, rest assured you can see them here at St Donats Arts Centre every Monday at 2pm. What's more, the matinee screenings also include a cup of tea or coffee with biscuits on arrival – and all for the fantastic price of £4.50.

For classic cinema, join us every other Thursday at 7.30pm for films such as *Jaws* and Hitchcock's legendary *North by Northwest;* films that you may have seen on TV, but not in all their big screen glory!

To book tickets, visit www.stdonats.com or call 01446 799100.

WHAT'S ON IN YOUR AREA

Cowbridge library events

FEBRUARY 5: Afternoon Book Group, 2.30pm – 4pm (inaugural meeting); Chatterbooks group visit to illustrator Suzanne Carpenter (4pm – 5pm). Monthly book and library group for 9 – 12-year-olds. New members welcome!

February 7: children's quiz; E-book surgery 10am – 12pm, drop-in event.

Need help on debt?

THE Citizens' Advice Bureau is now holding fortnightly sessions at KPC in Pyle to give advice and help in dealing with debt, managing a budget and benefits entitlements.

If you would like to book a slot at the sessions, which run on a Thursday between 1pm – 3pm, call Alison on 01656 749219.

The next sessions are February 5 and 19, March 5 and 19, and will run on the first and third Thursday of each month.

Vale AM's surgery

THE Vale AM, Jane Hutt will be holding a surgery tomorrow (Friday, February 6) at Trinity Church hall, Trinity Street, Barry from 3pm – 5pm. No appointment necessary.

Art Society's 'practical session'

ON Thursday, February 12, Cowbridge Art Society welcomes visual artist, writer and researcher Dr Jac Saorsa, who is also the director and senior instructor of the Broadway Drawing School, Cardiff.

She will be taking a practical session on 'Drawing from Natural Forms: charcoal and graphite techniques'.

The society meets on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, Cowbridge, 7pm – 9pm, and visitors and new members are most welcome.

For details of the society's activities, see www.cowbridgeartsociety.com.

Jumble sale in church

ON Tuesday, February 17 at 2pm, the Crossway Ladies' Circle is holding a nearly new/jumble sale in Crossway Methodist Church, Court Road, Barry.

Stalls include books, cakes, bric-a-brac and others. Refreshments are available. All proceeds go to the church and charity.

Tax help

TAXHELP for Older People will hold free advice surgeries at Bridgend CAB office on Friday, February 13 and Pencoed Library on Wednesday, February 25.

Also at Age Cymru office, Holton Road, Barry on the last Monday of each month (9.30am to noon). To book an appointment, tel 0845 6013321.

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D864.

- **£2,000:** 213018.
- **The rollover, which now stands at £3,500 was not won this week.**
- **£10:** 817737, 816448, 231853, 711287, 189072, 275475, 436185, 682988, 851897, 728881, 141391, 622216, 818503, 662448, 164817, 198508, 413840, 636379, 613125, 272.
- **£5:** 620583, 810937, 850592, 189289, 742725, 870701, 405023, 375550, 334321, 376529, 761290, 487581, 723587, 752725, 495853, 353046, 652428, 473647, 232847, 856337, 238541, 797093, 886186, 490943, 303092, 208584, 297273, 658409, 172223, 642253, 513820, 242405, 214216, 688225, 875712, 495424, 435432, 424982, 672521, 412422, 914928, 800134, 490590, 211329, 519717, 735329, 167441, 346316, 680921, 125660, 640193, 833347, 230055, 744791, 983100, 542336, 888679, 258007, 720, 49.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

LETTERS AND E-MAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. An email address alone is not sufficient! We will (*in certain circumstances*)protect a writer's identity, if requested.

Time running out to oppose plan

I AM a frequent visitor to Cowbridge and after many years still confess to being captivated by its historic charm; however, I am very concerned about the recent application to build 390 houses at Darren Farm.

I am old enough to remember the frustration for users of the town before the bypass and have noticed a steady increase in congestion in recent years. Unfortunately, the High Street is not elastic and the capacity is finite.

I do not want to bore your readers with the numerous reasons as to why I oppose this development, although I would say that I remember a public inquiry in 2003 ruling against development on numerous grounds.

What annoys me is that there seems to be an attempt to short-circuit the LDP, which will be considered by the Welsh Assembly later this year and which affords a comprehensive look at all the infrastructure and housing needs in the Vale. This, in my view, makes it the best overall assessment on where to build.

I would urge your readers to write or email the council regarding their opposition to the development by going to the 'Save Darren Farm' website before it is too late.

Name and address supplied

Darren Farm: obvious solution

READING through recent stories in The GEM regarding housing development, not to mention your letters pages, it strikes me that the answer to the Vale's housing predicament is an obvious one.

By building homes at Darren Farm, it means that most of the development will take place on one site, a relatively sustainable one, close to roads and houses, rather than in lots of different locations.

Do we really want new housing springing up all across the Vale? Surely not! That would only spoil what makes the Vale special.

To me, Darren Farm seems to make sense, all the eggs in one basket so to speak. The alternative – hundreds of houses spread all across the Vale in unsustainable, unsightly places – simply doesn't bear thinking about.

Of course, Cowbridge doesn't want Darren Farm! But the alternative... well, it makes me shudder thinking about it. I think those living in villages around Cowbridge would do well to remember that.

People have to live somewhere and this option seems to me to be the logical one.

Mrs S Appleton, Cardiff
(formerly of the Vale).

'Vale needs more coherent planning system' SAYS READER

YOUR correspondence page last week provided further debate about housing development in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Some points were made about rural 'nimbyism'. The arguments in the rural Vale are not about opposing any housing development: we need additional housing in the villages, especially affordable housing as pointed out last week.

The real rural Vale housing issue is about excessive development in a number of villages and in Cowbridge.

When so many communities across the whole Vale, including Barry, face such pressures, we need really good planning systems to ensure proportionate, sustainable development. The LDP is meant to provide a system of strategic planning which enables housing development to be on a sustainable basis in all Vale communities.

Instead, we now see developers sweeping aside this process across the Vale by using planning loopholes.

What we are enduring is an incoherent planning system which is steadily undermining the character of this part of Wales. In reality what is taking place is the annexation of the Vale as an adjunct of a rapidly expanding Cardiff conurbation.

This will be formalised shortly when the Welsh Government forces through the local government merger of the Vale Council with Cardiff.

A rapidly expanding capital city can only go westwards into the rural Vale – there is no other source of extensive greenfield land to meet its building needs.

What has been lacking in the LDP arguments has been a justification as to why the relentless growth of Cardiff is unstoppable, so necessitating the Welsh Government to insist that the council delivers 11,000 houses in the LDP.

There is a strong case that a coherent strategic planning system would focus on the economic reinvigoration of the South Wales valleys rather than viewing the Vale as an inevitable dormitory for the capital city.

Sue Eldridge in her letter last week made the essential point about bringing people from across the Vale together to resist inappropriate development.

How about starting with a debate before the general election among the Vale of Glamorgan parliamentary candidates about how we create a far more coherent planning system than what is currently unfolding before our eyes?

Paul Jeremy, Ystradowen
(Vale Villages Together).
valevillagestogether@gmail.com

Parking ticket

YESTERDAY (Sunday, February 1) 20 cars received parking tickets at Barry island front.

Young families taking exercise and walking their pets on the beach were targeted by traffic wardens. In these hard times families are looking at things to do, where they don't have to spend copious amounts of money and get their kids out in the fresh air away from Xboxes and other games consoles were targeted for parking in a bay which says taxi rank!

There are no taxis here. I walk my dog every day and especially in the winter something needs to be done about this.

A lot of people can barely feed themselves these days so the cost of a ticket is devastating to young and old.

A Clarke, Barry.

'I'm Welsh and proud of it!'

I AM writing in response to the recent publicity in The GEM about the Welsh language: I totally agree with the letters in support of the language.

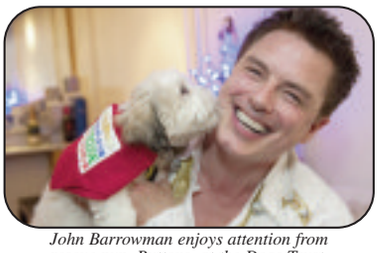
I am Welsh and proud of it (it is my first language and I have always spoken it).

I would also like to add that I am proud of the fact that I have lived very happily in Cowbridge for nearly 40 years.

I do hope that you continue to include the page in our native language for many years to come.

Mair James,
Cowbridge.

PLEASE COME TO THE RESCUE!



John Barrowman enjoys attention from rescue pup, Buttons, at the Dogs Trust.

AS a patron of Dogs Trust, I'm writing to say a big thank you to players of People's Postcode Lottery for the £175,000 award given to help the charity care for more stray, abandoned and unwanted dogs this year.

Dogs Trust looks after over 17,000 dogs of all shapes and sizes every year across its 21 rehoming centres. The average cost of caring for a dog over the course of a year is around £1,275 and this award will go towards providing vital care.

This can include routine neutering and microchipping, vaccinations and other medical bills along with bedding, toys and the mileage costs of transporting dogs for rehoming.

As Dogs Trust never puts a healthy dog to sleep, the charity makes additional efforts provide a comfortable, stimulating environment for the dogs to keep them happy in kennels while they await new homes.

As a dog owner myself, I know how much love and companionship they can provide. If you're missing some love in your life, and think you could have time to offer a home to a dog, please consider a rescue from Dogs Trust.

Your local rehoming centre in Bridgend will be happy to help advise on the best dog for you.

John Barrowman
(Proud owner of Captain Jack and Harris…oh, and entertainer!)

Bridgend best fit

I WRITE to say how disappointed I was to hear that the Vale of Glamorgan is not to be allowed to merge with Bridgend.

I love Cardiff as our capital city, but I fear that the population of Cardiff (351,700 at the last census) will dominate the number of councillors, as opposed to those allowed for 127,159 in the Vale unitary authority.

I feel that Bridgend, with 130,000, would have given us a fairer balance of councillors.

Gwen Baty,
Cowbridge.

Jazz group meets

THE next meeting of the Vale Jazz group will be held this week. The group is hoping to organise a jazz festival weekend on June 19-21.

It will be held on Thursday, February 5 at 7pm at Barry Civic Offices.

On the agenda will be a presentation from licensing and an update on the Lottery bid. All members of the public are welcome to attend.

Students display their art exhibits at the Bay

FOUNDATION degree art students from Cardiff and Vale College have organised a 'Combination' exhibition of their work in Cardiff Bay art venue 'Craft In The Bay'.

It features textiles, ceramics and graphic design and will run at Craft In The Bay until March 19.

"This is the biggest exhibition in Craft in the Bay that we have had yet," said Billy Adams, CAVC course leader for the foundation degree in art and ceramics.

"We have 12 students exhibiting in three disciplines – textiles, ceramics and graphic design. The work is based in part in the students' own personal views and work based on Cardiff Bay itself."

'Combination' will run at Craft In The Bay until March 19.

Charity coffee morning

THE Vale of Glamorgan Mayor is hosting a charity coffee morning in aid of the National Coastwatch Institution, Barry Island, on Tuesday, February 10 from 10.30am – 12 noon in the Civic Office. Admission £1.50. All are welcome.

The Sea View Lads – FACES OLD AND NEW!

THE start of 2015 has seen several old faces out fishing again, along with some new members. Many familiar names appear in recent results, Roger Green, Don Cook, Steve Jones (and his namesake Johnny) have joined the regulars on the podium and long may this continue.

A spokesman reported: "Their rewards have been mixed, with alternating weeks seeing good and poor weights being landed. The introduction of metric scales for weighing fish has confused some anglers and we are unsure how it will affect the Peterson scale.

"However, our illustrious chair, Steve Doble has managed some good weights including a mighty 0.110kg total catch on the 21st – that's about 4 ounces in old money!

"The social calendar is already filling up, with names being taken for the Weymouth, Tenerife, Norway, West Wales and mystery trips.

"Meetings are well attended and it has been nice to see some old faces return including Bob Messerschmitt – perhaps Uncle Albert will follow.

"Due to confusion over the mystery trip dates, the boat trip is now rescheduled for April 4 – should be a great time of year to land some specimens so book a place quickly!

"At the last meeting, members were treated to AWOL in his most splendid and belligerent form, supported ably by his ally, Tony the Bus; reminding us of the increasingly valuable social support role the club now plays for its older and more vulnerable members.

"Membership fees for the coming year are now due – at just £15, it's surely the best value ticket available for lovers of angling and good craic!"

Shore results for February 1: First, D Whitcombe 3.480 kilo; second, P Seaton, 3.140 kilo; third, P Coles, 1.87 kilo; fourth, K Salah 1.320 kilo; fift, S Hinder 1.295 kilo; sixth, A Harris 0.590 kilo.

January 21: First, G Spiteri 1.080 kg; second, P Coles 1.005 kg; third, S Doble 0.110 kg.

January 18: First, C Mckinnery 4.350kg; second, M Langford, 3.3660; third, P Crook 3.480; fourth, K Salah 3.170; fifth, D Cook 2.820; sixth, R Green 2.280.

January 11: First, P Coles 0.57 kg; second, A Harris 0.36 kg; third, S Davies 0.26 kg; fourth, M Langford.0.160; fifth, J Jones 0.130.

January 4: First, M Langford 4.92 kg; second, D Cook 2.42 kg; third, R Green 2.16 kg; fourth, S Doble 1.90 kg; fifth, R Bond 1.65 kg; sixth, A Harris 1.42 kg.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

Local Government Investigations (Functions of Monitoring Officers and Standards Committees) (Wales) Regulations 2001

The Standards Committee of the Vale of Glamorgan Council, on 31st July 2014, considered allegations that Community Councillor L. Scaglioni of Sully and Lavernock Community Council had failed to comply with Paragraphs 4(b) and 6(1)(a) of the Community Council's Code of Conduct for Members.

The allegations were found to be proven by the Standards Committee, who determined that Councillor Scaglioni be suspended from being a Member of Sully and Lavernock Community Council for a period of six months.

In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 10 of the Local Government Investigations (Functions of Monitoring Officers and Standards Committees) (Wales) Regulations 2001, Community Councillor Scaglioni appealed to the Adjudication Panel for Wales against the decision of the Standards Committee.

The Appeal was considered by a Tribunal of the Adjudication Panel for Wales on 22nd January 2015.

The Appeal Tribunal decided to overturn the determination of the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Standards Committee that Community Council Scaglioni had breached the Sully and Lavernock Community Council's Code of Conduct, and the sanction imposed by the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Standards Committee was rescinded.

A copy of the Notice of Decision is available on the Council's website, and the Tribunal's full reasoned decision will be available on the Adjudication Panel's website in due course.

A copy of this report is available for inspection for 21 days from 5th February 2015 as follows:

- On the Vale of Glamorgan Council's website
- The Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4RU, during normal office hours.

Copies of this report can be provided at a charge of £1.00 per copy.

Ms. D. Marles
Monitoring Officer
Vale of Glamorgan Council
Civic Offices
Holton Road
Barry CF63 4RU

5th February 2015

Call to council: SORT OUT ESPLANADE

COMPLAINTS addressed to Coun Anthony Ernest over continuing disruption along the pavement on the esplanade, have been taken up by the Penarth councillor with the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

He reported this week: "Local residents are becoming increasingly concerned at the delays in getting the pavements put to rights for pedestrians, who have found the footpath blocked for the best part of two years or so – while the roadway outside Beachcliffe is continually taken up with contractors' vans who park there throughout the day, denying those living nearby and visitors from using these all too valuable parking slots in a popular area of the town."

The veteran councillor said that the Vale Council has been asked to intervene to help resolve the situation, "a constant source of annoyance particularly to elderly people living in adjacent Windsor Court".

He added: "Should there be any similar or other problems in Plymouth Ward (South Penarth), I can always be contacted at Penarth 02920 702111, or by email. I will take up these issues on residents' behalf."

PACT meetings

BUTTRILLS PACT at Barry Town Council Offices, Gladstone Road, Barry today (February 5) at 6.30pm.

ILLTYD PACT at Aberthaw House Hotel, Porthkerry Road, Barry on February 23 at 3pm.

STANWELL PACT at The Pod, St Luke's Avenue, Penarth on February 13 at 7pm.

Glamorgan GEM

Food For Thought....

Who better than a French chef to advise on your Valentine's Day romantic meal?

by Gabrielle Fagan

IT'S that special day of the year and you want to treat your loved one to a seductive meal. Who better to advise you than Jean-Christophe Novelli, who has been described by the New York Times as 'the world's sexiest chef'? He devises a menu to appeal to all the senses with special recipes from his new book.

Just talking about food with TV chef, Jean-Christophe Novelli is a sensual experience.

It's not just his dark looks, and chocolate brown eyes, but his passion and enthusiasm as he talks in his sexy, simmering French accent about the importance of "using ze flavours, and experimenting. It should be fun and sooo eezay.."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

The Nosh Pot Kitchen
Outside Catering
Enjoy a romantic meal in the comfort of your own home.
Deliveries to Barry & The Vale.
Must pre order by 12 February.
Valentine's Day
meal to order - free delivery
Starter
Red pepper soup (V)
or
Toast ciabatta with tomato, red onion & pesto oil (V)
Main
Roast chicken breast wrapped in Parma ham stuffed with feta & sun dried tomato
or
Beetroot & caramelized onion tart (V) served with fondant potato, green beans & asparagus
A trio of dessert
White chocolate & raspberry cheesecake
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Glamorgan GEM Food For Thought....

Jean Christophe's food ideas

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25

I guarantee even those with a serious allergy to a hot stove would find it difficult to resist rushing to tangle with some pans and rustling up a feast just to impress him.

So the man who's been described as able to make women 'swoon at the flick of his whisk' seemed the ideal person to turn to for advice on preparing a romantic meal for Valentine's Day.

He says wisely: "Ahh, food can be very sexy but it's definitely not enough on its own to seduce a woman – you need to have that special connection.

"Many men tend to try to over-impress if they cook for a woman and it often ends in disaster. Women also can try too hard to make an over-elaborate dish, which is tiring to prepare and then they are hardly likely to be in the mood for romance after all that effort."

Instead, Jean-Christophe believes simple and easy and bursting with flavour is the recipe for success on Valentine's Day and for the rest of the year also, come to that.

"The secret to any romantic meal is to make it look as effortless as possible.

Ideally, choose recipes that you can prepare beforehand, so you minimise the amount of time you spend in the kitchen. After all, your attention should be totally on your partner."

The multi-Michelin-starred chef has gathered together a treasure trove of accessible and inspiring recipes in his book, Everyday Novelli.

He wants it to be like a friend in the kitchen and "end up covered in butter and flour as you cook from it day after day..." (see, he even manages to make the book itself sound yummy!).

He's been married twice but is now happily settled with Irishwoman Michelle Kennedy, 30, and has dedicated the book to "the woman I love so, so much, forever".

But she may miss out on a romantic Valentine's celebration with him as he usually works on that day.

If he does prepare a cosy-together evening the ingredients are: "Start with champagne (always the best), well chilled and perhaps with a few canapes with smoked salmon, oysters or some finger food. Definitely nothing too heavy.

"Remember to concentrate on the food your partner likes, and avoid strong food that taints your breath and colours your teeth.

"Romantic ingredients come in many forms, but vanilla and honey have to be some of the most widely recognised ones, along with soft ice cream and chocolates."

Be inspired by Jean-Christophe and win a lover's heart by serving two of his dishes, a 'Cod Brandade Glazed With Red Peppers', and a dessert which can be prepared in advance and is "probably the most sensual recipe in my book" – Iced White Chocolate With Whisky.

***Everyday Novelli* by Jean-Christophe Novelli, published by Headline, £20, is available now.**

COD BRANDADE GLAZED WITH RED PEPPERS

Serves two.

(This dish works equally well if you use salmon or haddock). Use a tender fillet of cod. If the fish has the skin on, ask the fishmonger to skin it for you.

When making the mashed potato, I use floury potatoes – ideal for mashing.

Prep time: 15 minutes

Cooking time: 10 minutes.

Ingredients:

200g fresh raw cod fillet, skinned and flaked.

8-10 fresh basil leaves, torn.

1 garlic clove, peeled and chopped.

10ml olive oil.

lemon juice.

100g hot mashed potatoes.

20ml double cream.

15g unsalted butter.

1/2tsp freshly grated nutmeg.

1 red pepper, stalk removed, halved and deseeded.

1 bay leaf.

2 sprigs fresh thyme, stalks removed.

Salt and freshly ground black pepper.

Pinch caster sugar.

2tbsp water.

2 slices Cheddar cheese.

Pinch paprika.

To serve: 1 baguette.

Preheat the oven to 200C/fan 180C/Gas 4. In a pestle and mortar, pound together the cod, basil, garlic, one teaspoon of the olive oil and a dash of lemon juice until it forms a paste. Alternatively, blitz in a blender or food processor.

Turn into a bowl and add the hot mashed potatoes, cream, butter and nutmeg. Beat to combine and set aside.

Heat the remaining olive oil in an ovenproof frying pan with a lid, and when very hot, add the red pepper, together with the bay leaf, thyme, seasoning and sugar.

Once the peppers have slightly browned, after 3-4 minutes, add the water to create steam. Cover immediately with a lid and put straight into the preheated oven for two minutes.

Remove from the oven and fill each pepper half with the fish paste. Cover with a thin slice of cheese and sprinkle with paprika.

Return to the hot oven and bake for a further 12 minutes. Preheat the grill until hot. Cut the baguette in half lengthways and toast under the preheated grill until golden brown.

Serve the peppers with the toasted baguette.

ICED WHITE CHOCOLATE WITHWHISKY

Serves 6-12 (so there's plenty left over for other romantic occasions!).

Prep time: 5 minutes.

Chill time: one hour.

Ingredients:

200g white chocolate.

20ml whisky, chilled.

180ml double cream, chilled.

Break the chocolate into very small pieces. Put a non-stick saucepan on a low heat until just warm. Remove from the heat.

Add the white chocolate and stir with a wooden spoon so that the chocolate melts very slowly.

Add the whisky and double cream straight from the fridge.

Continue stirring until slight ribbons form.

Pour into an ice-cube tray or ice-lolly moulds and freeze for at least one hour.

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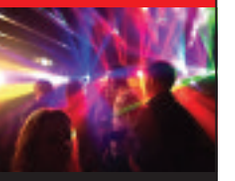

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Sally Holland named new Children's Commissioner

MINISTER for communities and tackling poverty, Lesley Griffiths, has announced the appointment of Professor Sally Holland as the new Children's Commissioner for Wales.

She is currently a professor at the School of Social Sciences at Cardiff University, and director and founder of CASCADE Children's Social Care Research Centre.

Prof Holland is internationally acclaimed for enabling children and young people to represent their own views through active participation in her research. Her areas of expertise include children's rights, Welsh children's views about citizenship and identity, looked after children, child protection and adoption.

She has also campaigned for, and researched, the needs and rights of children and will be taking over from outgoing commissioner, Keith Towler, whose seven year tenure will shortly come to an end.

The Deputy Children's Commissioner, Eleri Thomas, will assume the functions of the Children's Commissioner until Sally Holland takes up the role in April, ensuring continuity of service for children and young people in Wales.

Announcing the appointment, Lesley Griffiths AM, said: "As a Government, we want to ensure Wales is a place where children's rights are a reality, and where their voices are heard loud and clear.

"I am delighted Professor Sally Holland will be taking up the position as the next Children's Commissioner for Wales and warmly welcome her to this important role. I am confident her range of experience in social work and children's rights, and her proven commitment to empowering children and young people, will make her a strong ambassador on their behalf.

"I would also like to express my sincere thanks to the outgoing commissioner, Keith Towler, for his commitment and achievements during his seven year term."

Sally Holland, said: "I am delighted and honoured to have been appointed to be the next Children's Commissioner for Wales.

"I am proud of Wales' history of promoting children's and young people's rights and I will work hard to ensure that this continues and strengthens, building on the excellent work of the first two commissioners.

"Children and young people face new opportunities and challenges in contemporary society. I will work with the children and young people of Wales to ensure that their rights are safeguarded and promoted."

Support for Macmillan more vital than ever

LAST year was a record-breaking one for Macmillan Cancer Support in Wales, with cancer diagnosis on the increase, and more people living with, and beyond cancer than ever before. Public support for fundraising is more vital now, than ever.

A spokeswoman said: :During 2014, our fantastic supporters in Wales did all sorts of events, including, coffee mornings, auctions, variety nights and even white collar boxing, all of which helped us achieve our best ever year, but that doesn't mean we don't need your help in 2015 and beyond.

"Macmillan Cancer Support is entirely funded by donations, without which we simply could not give the invaluable support and services to those affected by cancer, in Wales. We are always looking to expand our services in Wales, and whether it's expanding our team of professionals or providing advice leaflets, we need your help.

"In 2013, we invested over £3.2 million in cancer services in Wales – this figure rises annually. We know that by 2030, it is expected that over a quarter of a million people in Wales will be living with and beyond cancer, which equates to 90,000 in south east and mid Wales, and to put that into perspective, that number of people would fill the Millennium Stadium three times."

She added: "We want to thank each and every person and business who has supported Macmillan Cancer Support in 2014. Whether you donate at a till point in your local store, or organise a cappuccino-filled coffee morning, we thank you."

If you want to get involved, contact the Macmillan Fundraising Support Centre on 0300 1000 200 or email fundraising@macmillan.org.uk.

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Sunkissed is celebrating 10 years of making Vale ladies feel good!

A Llantwit Major beauty salon is planning to make February a special month as it celebrates its 10th anniversary.

It was 10 years ago this month that Vicki Wiggins bought a small tanning salon. It was something that Vicki had always wanted to do and thought that the premises had great potential.

In 10 years, what was once just a tanning business with one small beauty room, has grown rapidly

Vicki told The GEM: "Our clients' needs and requirements were always at the forefront of our minds and, as a result, we now have four lovely treatment rooms and a relaxation area".

Learning what clients valued and appreciated was key and, within 12 months of taking over, Vicki took on the Dermalogica range of skin products – a quality range that is a market leader in the skin care industry.

Staff who get on well with customers and who become part of the family are important, and two of the Sunkissed team, Jo James and Sara Harris, have been there from day one. Billie and Danika have joined us in more recent years and have complimented our team.

Loyal staff, combined with loyal customers, have enabled Sunkissed to thrive, ride out the recession, and keep adding extra treatments along the way.

Vicki said: "One of our treatment rooms is a double room, ideal for being pampered together with a loved one or friend.

"We also have a cosy relaxation area that is perfect for pamper parties, relaxing on your own or enjoying a girly chat with friends over a glass of bubbly.

"After leaving the tranquil section you enter into the heart of Sunkissed, where you will find two nail stations, client seating, sunbeds coupled with laughter, chatter and fun".

One of the things that makes Vicki happiest are the Facebook posts that show that clients value that fun atmosphere just as much as the staff do.

Sunkissed is far more than a tanning salon, and it offers a full range of treatments, including holistic, reflexology, aromatherapy and Indian head massage to name just a few.

Vicki also invested in a new State of the art Dermaco machine last summer, which means they offer microdermabrasion, non-surgical face lifts, and light therapy which dramatically reduces fine lines and wrinkles and helps with acne scarring and other skin conditions.

FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS
To celebrate its 10th anniversary, Sunkissed will be hosting a party for clients on Wednesday, February 11. from 5.30pm until late.
During the evening, there will be complimentary treatments, raffles and prize draws.
Also, throughout February, special offers will be advertised in the salon and on its Facebook page.
For more details, visit Sunkissed on its Facebook page or on www.sunkissedbeautyandtanning.co.uk

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MENTER IAITH BRO MORGANNWG

SEFYDLWYD Menter Bro Morgannwg yn 2013, gyda'r nod o gynyddu'r defnydd o'r Gymraeg ar lefel gymunedol ym Mro Morgannwg.

Rydym yn falch iawn i barhau â'r bartneriaeth newydd yma gyda'r Glamorgan GEM, ac fe fyddwn yn cydlynu tudalennau misol Cymraeg yn y papur, fydd yn cael ei gyhoeddi ar ddydd Iau cyntaf pob mis.

MENTER Bro Morgannwg was established in 2013, with the aim of increasing the use of the Welsh language on a community level in the Vale of Glamorgan.

We are very pleased to be continuing our new partnership with the Glamorgan GEM, and we will be co-ordinating Welsh language pages in the paper, which will be published on the first Thursday of every month.

GOFAL GWYLIAU CYFRWNG CYMRAEG

RYDYM yn falch iawn i gyhoeddi bod y Fenter wedi derbyn cyllid i sefydlu Cynllun Gofal Gwyliau Cyfrwng Cymraeg newydd sbon ym Mro Morgannwg.

Gan ddechrau yn hanner tymor Chwefror 2015, fe fydd y gwasanaeth yn cael ei gynnal yn ystod pob gwyliau ysgol (ag eithrio'r Nadolig), o ddydd Llun i ddydd Gwener, 8.30am – 5.30pm.

Caiff ei gynnal yn Ysgol Nant Talwg, ond mae'n agored i holl blant ysgolion cynradd Cymraeg Bro Morgannwg.

Bydd hwn yn wasanaeth allweddol o bwysig i rieni sydd yn gorfod parhau i weithio yn ystod cyfnodau o wyliau ysgol, a gyda dros 90% o ddisgyblion ysgolion Cymraeg y Sir yn dod o gartrefi di-Gymraeg, bydd hefyd yn cynnig cyfleoedd hollbwysig i'r plant i barhau i ddefnyddio ac ymarfer eu Cymraeg y tu allan i dymor ysgol.

Rydym wedi llunio amserlen lawn o weithgareddau ar gyfer hanner tymor Chwefror – gan gynnwys Gweithdy Crefftau, Gemau Bwrdd, Reptiliaid, Coginio, Gweithdy Chwaraeon yr Urdd, Trip i'r Sinema, Gweithdy Dawns, Gemau Parasiwt, Parti Pitsa, Disco a llawer mwy!

Os hoffech chi fwy o wybodaeth, neu i gofrestru eich plentyn ar gyfer y Cynllun Gofal, cysylltwch â ni: ffion@menterbromorgannwg.org / 029 20689888.

Os ydych yn rieni sy'n gweithio, fe allwch fod â'r hawl i gael Credyd Treth i deuluoedd sy'n gweithio, a hawlio hyd at 80% o'ch costau gofal plant yn ôl drwy'r elfen Credyd Treth Gofal Plant. Am fwy o wybodaeth ynglŷn â hyn ffoniwch 0345 300 3900 am ddim.

Gwersi Nofio'r Urdd

RYDYM yn rhedeg gwersi nofio mewn pedwar lleoliad gwahanol ar draws Y Fro gan gynnwys Canolfan Hamdden Penarth, Coleg yr Iwerydd, Canolfan Hebron a Chanolfan Hamdden Y Barri.

Mae'r gwersi yn dilyn strwythur nofio a lefelau Nofio Cymru.

Mae'r gwersi yn rhedeg trwy'r flwyddyn. Dewch i ymuno gyda'r sesiynau hwylus!

Cysylltwch â garetheast@urdd.org neu rhowch alwad ar 07557 322891 am fwy o wybodaeth!

Cyflwyno Swyddog Lled Ffurfiol newydd Canolfan Cymraeg i Oedolion Caerdydd a'r Fro

HELO, fy enw i yw Glyn Wise, Swyddog Lled Ffurfiol newydd Canolfan Cymraeg i Oedolion Caerdydd a'r Fro.

Glyn Wise

Dyma fy mlwyddyn gyntaf yn y swydd ond mae rhaid i mi gyfaddef, rwy'n ei charu yn barod. Mae'r Gymraeg yn golygu cymaint i fi, mae'n iaith gyfoethog llawn urddas gyda llenyddiaeth anhygoel i'w chlodfori.

Mae'r iaith yn rhan ohonaf, yn fy ngwneud yn Gymro a mae'r swydd yn fy siwtio i'r dim. Ynghlwm â hyn, rwy'n dysgu Cymraeg i oedolion fel tiwtor yn stadiwm pêl droed Dinas Caerdydd sy'n wych!

Ond, yn gyntaf mae'n bwysig fy mod yn cyflwyno fy hunan. Rwy'n wreiddiol o Flaenau Ffestiniog ond nawr rwy'n byw yng Nghaerdydd ers 8 mlynedd. Ni ddychmygais y byddwn yn byw yn y ddinas fawr ddrwg pan oeddwn yn blentyn.

Daeth y dyhead am newid pan oeddwn yn y 6ed dosbarth. Wrth astudio'r Tŵr gan Gwenlyn Parry, sylweddolais fod bywyd gyda rhestr fawr o oblygiadau - gwneud yn dda yn yr ysgol, mynd i'r Brifysgol, ennill swydd, priodi, cael plant, marw.

Roedd gen i ofn hynny. Felly, cymerais y cyfle i fynychu tŷ Big Brother.

Agorodd y sioe gymaint o gyfleoedd i ledaenu fy Ngymreictod a fy ngwladgarwch i bobl na fyddai erioed yn crybwyll pwysigrwydd yr iaith a'i diwylliant. Roedd yn braf gweld y Gymraeg yn cael ei defnyddio ar Sianeli Saesneg a phapurau Llundain yn trafod yr iaith.

Roedd hynny'n wych. Yna, es ymlaen i weithio gyda Bwrdd Yr Iaith i wneud taith ysgolion yn pwysleisio pwysigrwydd yr iaith. Yn y cyfamser roeddwn yn cyflwyno Planed Plant ar S4C, BBC Radio Cymru a gweithio mewn clybiau nos led-led Prydain.

Fe wnes i ddysgu Cymraeg i feddwon ymhob clwb nos, hyd yn oed Ayre yn yr Alban, ble doedd y pobl ddim yn deall fy Saesneg gyda'n acen heb sôn am y Gymraeg! Roedd gweithio yn y cyfryngau'n wych, ond ymhen dwy flynedd, teimlais fy mod wedi gwneud popeth oeddwn eisiau. Edrychais am sialens newydd.

Wrth grwydro maes yr Eisteddfod yn 2008, gwelais stondin Prifysgol Caerdydd. Yn ffodus iawn, cefail le i astudio BA yn y Gymraeg, y dewis gorau erioed!

Roedd y cwrs yn wych! O astudio'r Mabinogi, i weithiau a bywyd Saunders Lewis, hanes y ddrama Gymraeg, nofealu modern â'r clysuron i ysgrifennu creadigol. Roedd y 3 mlynedd yn anhygoel ac enillais 2.1 ar ben hynny!

Yn dilyn graddio cefais 2 flynedd o weithio fel athro iaith gyntaf Gymraeg. Ond, nid oedd addysg yn yr hyn yr oeddwn yn disgwyl (a fe wnewn ni gadw hi ar hynny!). Ond nawr rydw i wedi glanio ar fy nhraed ac edrychaf ymlaen i gydweithio a chwrdd gyda phawb yn y gweithgareddau Cymraeg yng Nghaerdydd a'r Fro.

Cofiwch bydd y cwrs Sadwrn nesaf i ddysgwyr yn cael ei gynnal ar y 14eg o Chwefror yn y Bontfaen, 4 awr o ddysgu Cymraeg a gweithgaredd ar y diwedd. Ewch i'r wefan i archebu'ch lle, byddwn i yno i'ch croesawu chi – https://welshforadults.cardiff.ac.uk/learning/weekend-courses/cowbridge-saturday-course.

Glyn Wise

Angharad

WEL! Pwy feddylie!

Wedi cyhoeddi tudalennau Cymraeg cyntaf y Gem gan gynnwys fy ngholofn i yn canmol i'r cymylau cymuned fechan glos gyfeillgar y Bontfaen, roedd hi'n dipyn o ysgytwad dair wythnos yn ddiweddarach i fod yn croesawu criw 'Newyddion' i'r tŷ i ymateb i'r llythyrwr di-enw a ddywedod bod y Bontfaen yn dre lwyddiannus oherwydd nad oedd Cymraeg yno!

Cofiwch, roeddwn i'n falch i gael y cyfle i ganmol papur Y GEM am ei weledigaeth a'r agwedd bositif dros yr iaith ac am ymateb fel y gwnaethpwyd wrth wneud yn glir nad oedd cefnogaeth i sylwadau'r llythyrwr gan y papur.

Sgwn i os yw'r llythyrwr anhysbys yn siopa yn Waitrose? Mae gen i syniad rywsut ei fod e/hi y teip fyddai falch o arddel siop mor chwaethus yn y dre heb sylweddoli cymaint mae'r siop yma'n gyfrannu yn lleol gan gynnwys dangos parch mawr i'r Gymraeg.

Mae Waitrose fel rhan o grwp John Lewis ar flaen y gad wrth sicrhau hawliau teg i'w staff a'r mis yma fe fydd pob un o'r staff yn rhannu £22 miliwn ychwanegol o dâl bonws yn sgil y ddeddf newydd am daliadau gwyliau.

Ond yn yr un mor bwysig yw nôd y siop i ymddwyn mewn modd sy'n cymryd gofynion y gymuned leol i ystyriaeth.

Pan agorodd John Lewis siop yng nghanol Caerdydd, roedd angen tua mil o weithwyr arnynt. Fel rhan o'i strategaeth busnes ni chlywyd yr un esgus trist bod angen cyflogi o ochr arall clawdd offa er mwyn cael y bobl iawn – aethpwyd ati'n fwriadol i gyflogi a hyfforddi pobl leol.

Rhoddwyd lle amlwg i ddwyieithrwydd – nid dim ond yn y mannau cyhoeddus ond yn y swyddfeydd tu cefn hefyd. Nid sioe o gefnogi Cymreictod oedd hyn, ond rhan o ethos bwriadol.

Ac os yw cwmni llewyrchus fel hyn yn gallu dangos y fath barch, gan gofio mai busnes i wneud elw yn y pendraw yw hanfod siop, onid yw hi'n syfrdanol bod rhai sy'n dal i weld 'oasis' o Seisnigrwydd yn gaffaeliad, yn hytrach na gallu agor eu llygaid i weld mai cyfoethogi bywyd mae'r iaith Gymraeg yn ei wneud.

Cynnydd o 100% yng nghyllideb Menter Bro Morgannwg

AR Ionawr 9fed, fe gyhoeddodd Prif Weinidog Cymru bod £3.6 miliwn o gymorth ariannol ychwanegol ar gyfer hybu'r Gymraeg ar draws Cymru yn ystod 2015-16. Bydd 34 o sefydliadau yn elwa o'r pecyn hwn, gyda phob un o'r Mentrau Iaith yn derbyn lleiafswm o £60,000 yr un o gyllid craidd.

Mae hyn yn newyddion da iawn i Fenter Bro Morgannwg, ac yn golygu bod incwm y Fenter oddi wrth Llywodraeth Cymru yn dyblu yn 2015-16. Bydd hyn yn ein galluogi i gynyddu'r nifer o weithgareddau gallwn eu trefnu yn y Sir fydd yn arwain at gynyddu'r defnydd cymunedol o'r Gymraeg ym Mro Morgannwg.

Dywedodd y Prif Weinidog: "Dyma becyn sylweddol o gymorth ariannol a fydd yn helpu â'r gwaith o hybu'r Gymraeg mewn trefi a chymunedau ar draws Cymru yn ystod 2015-16. Mae'r Llywodraeth yn awyddus i sicrhau iaith fyw sy'n ffynnu a bydd yr arian hwn yn ein helpu i gyflawni'r ymrwymiadau sydd wrth wraidd Bwrw Mlaen."

"Hoffem annog pobl i fod â'r hyder i ddefnyddio'r Gymraeg yn eu bywydau bob dydd ac o fewn eu cymunedau lleol. Bydd y pecyn hwn o arian yn ein helpu i gyflawni hyn. Bydd yn ei gwneud hi'n bosibl i ddatblygu prosiectau newydd, gwahanol a chyffrous sy'n cefnogi gweithgareddau Cymraeg ar lawr gwlad ac yn creu rhagor o gyfleoedd."

Ewch i'n gwefan (www.menterbromorgannwg.org) i weld newyddion diweddaraf y Fenter, neu dilynwch Menter Bro Morgannwg ar Twitter a Facebook.

MERCHED Y WAWR

MAE Merched y Wawr wedi derbyn cyllid o gronfa Bwrw Mlaen Llywodraeth Cymru i gydlynu cyfres o ddigwyddiadau i hyrwyddo dyfeisgarwch a Chymreictod ymysg merched, ac fe fydd un o'r digwyddiadau hynny yn digwydd yma ym Mro Morgannwg! Fe'i gynhelir yng Ngwesty'r Bear y Bontfaen, ar Ddydd Mercher 25ain o Fawrth 2015.

Croeso cynnes i unrhyw ferch sy'n siarad Cymraeg neu yn ddysgwraig ddod i glywed am brofiadau eraill a mwynhau.

Cynhelir nifer o weithgareddau drwy gydol y diwrnod, gan gynnwys sesiwn Ffotograffiaeth, Bylbiau a mwy gan Llinos Lanini a Choginio a busnes 'Pumpkin Patch' gyda Lisa Fearn yn y bore (10.00 – 12.00 o'r gloch), a Gosod Blodau gydag Ann Mears, a sesiwn yn trafod Bywyd Artist gyda Rhiannon Roberts yn y prynhawn (1.00 – 3.00 o'r gloch).

Ni ddarperir cinio na phaned prynhawn ond mae gweddill y diwrnod yn rhad ac am ddim, diolch i nawdd gan Grant 'Bwrw Mlaen' Llywodraeth Cymru. Bydd modd archebu cinio yn y gwesty ar ôl cyrraedd yn y bore os dymunwch. Diolch hefyd i Menter a Busnes am eu cydweithrediad.

Rhaid cofrestru ymlaen llaw trwy ffonio swyddfa Merched y Wawr 01970 611 661, e-bost swyddfa@merchedywawr.com neu bostio at Swyddfa Merched y Wawr, Stryd yr Efail, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion SY23 1JH erbyn 18 Mawrth 2015.

MENTER IAITH BRO MORGANNWG

Cyflwynwraig o'r Barri yn Ennill Pryd o Sêr!

YNG nghanol mis Ionawr, fe ddarlledwyd y gyfres ddiweddaraf o Pryd o Sêr ar S4C. Yn cystadlu eleni roedd yr actores Rhian Jones, y cyflwynwyr Llinos Lee, Morgan Jones, John Hardy a Meinir Howells, yr athletwr Aled Siôn Davies, cyfarwyddwr cerdd Only Men Aloud Tim Rhys-Evans a'r gantores Toni Caroll.

Cyflwynwraig o'r Barri yn ennill 'Pryd o Sêr'.

Y cogydd Dudley Newbery a'r gyflwynwraig Emma Walford oedd wrth y llyw ac yn gosod cyfres o heriau i'r sêr i wthio eu sgiliau coginio, a'u hamynedd, i'r eithaf.

Rhannwyd yr enwogion i ddau dîm – glas ac oren – ac yn ystod y gyfres bu'n rhaid iddynt baratoi cwrs cyntaf cywrain, gwneud pob math o fara, coginio cigoedd gwahanol, paratoi detholiad o bwdinau blasus a bwydo 130 o blant a rhieni llwglyd Côr Ieuenctid Môn.

Erbyn y rhaglen derfynol, bu'n rhaid i'r sêr goginio pryd tri chwrs i safon tŷ bwyta seren Michelin ar gyfer dros 80 o westeion arbennig - a dros eu hanner yn gynhyrchwyr bwyd llwyddiannus.

Ar ben hynny, ymhlith y gwesteion hefyd roedd Aelodau Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, a dau gogydd o fri; Aled Williams un o enillwyr cystadleuaeth The Great British Menu, a Mark Threadgill, prif gogydd gwesty ysblennydd Portmeirion.

Wedi cyfri holl bwyntiau'r rownd derfynol at ei gilydd, cyhoeddwyd mai'r tîm glas oedd yn fuddugol, ac fe wobrwywyd Llinos Lee yn 'Brif Gogydd' y gyfres!

Merch o'r Barri yw Llinos – yn gyn-ddisgybl Ysgol Sant Baruc – ac fe'i gwelwch hi ar y teledu'n aml fel cyflwynwraig y rhaglen 'Heno'. Wrth sôn am ei phrofiadau'n cystadlu ar Pryd o Sêr eleni, dywedodd Llinos mai dyna oedd "wythnos caleta fy mywyd erioed", ond ei bod wir wedi mwynhau y profiad.

Llongyfarchiadau mawr i ti!

Mae 'Pryd o Sêr' ar gael i'w wylio eto ar S4C Clic tan Chwefror 15fed-22ain.

Mynd am dro yn y Fro

Hanes yr Arth?

PE baech wedi arfer â gyrru o Gaerdydd i Bentyrch – er mwyn gwrando ar gyn-gystadleuydd rhaglen realiti yn canu er enghraifft, neu i geisio dod o hyd i'r defaid sydd yn ôl pob sôn yn crwydro'r mynydd agos – fe ddowch chi yn gyntaf i'r garth; i waelod y garth i ddweud y gwir sydd wrth gwrs wrth ymyl pentref Gwaelod-y-Garth.

Dylai'r enw yna ganu cloch, ac yn wir yn y cyd-destun hwnnw dydy'r term 'garth' ddim yn teimlo'n estron iawn, hyd yn oed i bobl nad sydd yn byw yn ardal Penarth ym Mro Morgannwg.

Dydw i heb ddod o hyd i'r union le fy hunan, ond dychmygaf fod "mynydd" chwedlonol Pentyrch yn dod i ben wrth ddibyn y garth, neu ben y garth fel petai.

A thrwy hynny fel gwelwch chi nawr yn ddi-os tarddiad yr enw Penarth, neu Pen-y-garth fel yr amlygir gan yr Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg leol o'r radd flaenaf.

Ar siwmperi'r ysgol honno, gwelir y geiriau "Gorau Awen Gwirionedd" a dyna fydd y golofn hon yn ceisio bob mis wrth gyflwyno enw pentrefi a threfi Bro Morgannwg yn eu cyd-destun hanesyddol; gwir pob gair, ac mewn gwirionedd ceir yr hanesion gorau...ydy'r gobaith!

Felly, os ydych chi'n gwybod tarddiad enw gwreiddiol eich pentref, rhowch wybod: cysylltwch ar david@cymunedau.org neu ffoniwch fi ar 02920 707 469.

David Wyn Williams

CALENDR

CYMRODORION Y BARRI

17/02/15: Byddwn yn dathlu gŵyl Sain Ffolant gydag ambell ddarn a chân gogleisiol a hwyliog 7.15pm yn Festri Tabernacl, Y Barri.

27/02/15: Cinio Gŵyl Ddewi yng Nghlwb Golff y Wenfô; rhoswend@hotmail.co.uk/eirypalfrey@yahoo.co.uk.

ADRAN ADDYSG GYDOL OES CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

Bob nos Lun 6.30-9pm yng Nghanolfan Palmerston.

Dosbarthiadau wythnosol gan gynnwys Gwnïo, Dosbarth Canu, Crefftau, Coffi, Sgwrs a Gemau Bwrdd.

Amser Stori – bob dydd Gwener yng Ngholeg Cymunedol y Bontfaen, 9.30am-11am.

23/02/15: Clwb Llyfrau – "Noson yr Heliwr" gan Lyn Ebenezer, 7-8pm yng Nghanolfan Palmerston.

27/02/15: Darlith a Chinio, Castell Sain Ffagan yn yr Ail Ryfel Byd (gan Dr Sioned Williams), 12.15pm-2pm yng Ngholeg Cymunedol y Bontfaen; mnfurnham@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk ; 01446 733762.

CANOLFAN CYMRAEG I OEDOLION

Noson Gymdeithasol Y Fro – bob nos Lun yng Nghanolfan Palmerston, Y Barri, 6.30pm – 8.30pm

Paned a sgwrs a chyfleoedd dysgu cyfrwng Cymraeg

Clinig Iaith – bob dydd Mawrth yng Nghanolfan Palmerston, Y Barri, 12pm–1pm.

Clwb Brecwast gyda Nic ap Glyn – bob bore dydd Gwener yn Nhafarn Y Bears Head, Penarth, 10am–11am.

Bore Coffi i ddysgwyr Cymraeg – bob dydd Sadwrn yn Llyfrgell y Barri, 10am–12pm.

14/02/15 – Sadwrn Siarad yn yr Hen Neuadd, Y Bontfaen, 10am–3pm.

Gwersi a gweithgareddau cyfrwng Cymraeg i bob safon; £20 y diwrnod; wiseg3@cardiff.ac.uk / 029 20874710.

Sêr gan Eiry Palfrey

AQUARIUS

Eiry Palfrey

OS cawsoch eich geni rhwng Ionawr 21ain a Chwefror 19eg rydych chi'n perthyn i'r arwydd Aquarius; arwydd daear dan reolaeth y planed oriog Wranws.

Rydych felly yn berson gwreiddiol, annibynnol, 'gwahanol', ac yn un sy'n mwynhau rhyddid, er y gallwch chi fod yn rebel croes ac anodd ar adegau. Mae gyda chi deimladau cryf dros neu yn erbyn pob peth, ac mae hynny'n eich gwneud i ymddangos yn styfnig weithiau.

Mae pethau newydd gwahanol bob amser yn apelio atoch chi. Mae'n haws i chi garu llawer o bobl nag un person, a gall hynny eich gwneud i ymddangos yn oeraidd a phell.

Does dim dal beth wnewch chi nesa, rydych chi'n berson yn llawn cywreinrwydd ac yn glyfar tu hwnt. Eich nod yw mynegi'ch gwybodaeth.

Rydych chi'n dueddol i ddelfrydu pob peth. Mae'n gas gyda chi gaethiwed, mae rhyddid yn holl bwysig i chi, ac fe fynnwch chi gael eich rhyddid a'ch ffordd eich hunan bob amser. Rydych chi'n caru dynoliaeth, ac mae'ch cyfeillion yn bwysig iawn i chi.

Rydych chi'n ffrind triw a ffyddlon ond cewch eich brifo i'r byw os byddai cyfaill yn eich gadael i lawr.

Aquariaid enwog: Barry Humphreys (Edna Everage), Syr Geraint Evans, Rupert Moon, Syr Wynff Elis-Owen, Rachel Thomas, Germaine Greer.

©Suzanne Carpenter

BLWYDDYN NEWYDD YN YSGOL IOLO MORGANWG

BU'N gychwyn cyffrous i'r flwyddyn newydd yn Ysgol Iolo Morganwg. Cawsom ymweliad gan y Fari Lwyd a ddaeth i'n hatgoffa o hen draddodiad Gymreig a rhan bwysig o'n diwylliant yma yng Nghymru. Cafodd groeso mawr i'n gwasanaeth ac fe fu canu hwyliog i'w chyfarch.

Mae'r Clwb Dawnsio Gwerin wedi bod yn cwrdd yn wythnosol ac maent yn ymarfer yn ddiwyd ar gyfer yr Eisteddfod. Da gweld criw o blant yn mynychu'r sesiynau dawnsio – cadw'n heini ac yn mwynhau ar yr un pryd.

Lawnsiwyd ein cynllun Mêts Mas Tu Fas gyda swyddogion o flwyddyn 5 a 6 yn cynorthwyo plant yn ystod amser chwarae a chinio. Cânt wisgo capiau pêl fas glas fel bo pawb yn gwybod at bwy i droi am gyngor, cwmni neu hwyl.

Maent hefyd yn gyfrwng ardderchog i hyrwyddo'r defnydd o'r iaith Gymraeg ar yr iard ac i annog chwarae gemau trwy'r Gymraeg.

Bu'r Llysgenhadon yn cwrdd er mwyn trafod cychwyn system bydis darllen. Y bwriad yw y bydd partneriaid o flwyddyn 5 a 6 yn darllen gyda disgyblion blwyddyn 2 a 3. Y nôd fydd annog darllen am fwynhad a thrafodaeth o'r storiau, y cymeriadau a'r themau. Cyfle gwych i ddatblygu sgiliau darllen a llafar!

Llais Lleol – Rhodri Ogwen

MAE Rhodri Ogwen yn wyneb cyfarwydd sydd wedi gwethio'n helaeth i S4C ac i Sky yn Llundain, ond erbyn hyn mae'n byw a'n gweithio yng nghanol y Dwyrain Canol!

YM mha ardal o'r Fro gafoch chi eich geni a'ch magu?

Ges i ngeni yng Nghaerdydd yn Ysbyty Dewi Sant a wedyn byw yn Radyr nes yn bedair ond wedyn symudodd y teulu i'r Barri. Symudon ni i ardal y Knap lawr wrth lan y môr tu nôl I Bindles.

Roedd yn ardal hyfryd i dyfu fyny. Ma mam a dad yn dal i fyw yn y Barri ond wedi symud i Ynys Y Barri gyda *Gavin a Stacey*.

Beth yw eich atgofion am eich plentyndod yn Y Fro?

Roedd y Fro yn hyfryd o le i dyfu fyny. Chwarae pêl droed yn Romilly Park, archwilio a gwersylla ym Mharc Porthceri. Bob haf bydden i a'n ffrindie yn y Pwll Agored lawr yn y Knap bob dydd.

Pan es i i'r coleg yng Nghaerdydd fe ddes i nôl I'r pwll yn yr haf i weithio fel 'lifeguard'. Dwi ddim yn cofio treulio unrhyw amser tu fewn yn y tŷ. Ar ôl dod ôl o'r ysgol fydde pawb fel tase'n nhw'n ymgynnyll tu allan i fy nhŷ i ac wedyn yn mynd allan i chwarae.

Dwi'n cofio fe'n le diogel iawn i dyfu fyny ac roedd byw ond tafliad carreg o'r môr yn hyfryd o beth.

Rydych chi'n gyn-ddisgybl Ysgol Sant Baruc yn y Barri – pa athro / athrawes gafodd y mwyaf o ddylanwad arnoch?

Ma hwn yn gwestiwn anodd oherwydd dwi ishe dweud pawb. Yr athrawes gynta dwi'n cofio ydy Eleri Hourahane neu Miss Davies.

Roedd hi'n hyfryd ac yn barod i roi cwtsh i fi pan ro'n i bach yn drist yn ceisio ymgartrefi yn fy ysgol newydd. Roedd hi'n aelod o'r run capel, Tabernacl yn y Barri hefyd, ac felly fe fydde'n i'n ei gweld yn hwyrach yn fy mywyd hefyd.

Ar ôl Coed yr Odyn a Saint Francis, ymlaen i St Baruc. Roedd Elwyn Richards yn brifathro gwych ac yn un da am ddisgyblaeth.

Roedd Freda Evans yn llawn egni fel athrawes ac yn sicr fe ddysges i lot wrthi hi ac o'r ochr chwaraeon a dawnsio Gwerin, Goronwy Jones. Ma meddwl am bob un o'r bobl yma yn dod nôl ag atgofion hyfryd i mi.

Dwedwch ychydig wrthom am ble rydych chi'n byw a'n gweithio nawr.

Dwi'n byw ac yn gweithio yn Qatar, sef gwlad cyfoethoca'r byd. Dwi yng nghanol y Dwyrain Canol. Dwi'n gweithio ym myd teledu ac yn mwynhau'r sialens wrth i'r wlad baratoi ar gyfer cwpan Pêl Droed y Byd yn 2022.

Pa mor aml fyddwch chi'n dod nôl gartref i Gymru?

Fe fyddai nôl yng Nghymru rhyw dair/bedair gwaith y flwyddyn ac yn dod a fy merch Jodie lawr gyda fi. Ma Jodie yn chwech nawr ac wrth ei bodd ar Ynys y Barri gyda a mam a dad a pan fyddwn ni gyd yn mynd lawr i Drefdraeth, yn Sir Benfro.

Mae bwriad i ail-fuddsoddi yn Ffair Ynys y Barri. Oes gennych chi atgofion o fynd i'r Ffair pan oeddech yn blentyn, a gyda phwy oeddech chi'n mynd?

Wel, dwi'n cofio treulio oriau yn y ffair bob penwythnos yn enwedig pan oeddwn yn 16eg. Ond roeddwn hefyd yn treulio lot o amser yn Butlins. Fues i'n gweithio yno ac yn ffrindie gyda teulu Billy Butlin felly roeddwn i a fy chwaer yn derbyn triniaeth arbenning ar Ynys Y Barri ac yn mwyhnau mynd ar y 'reids' am ddim.

Beth ydy eich diddordebau?

Dwi wrth fy modd ag unrhyw math o chwaraeon. Fel mae'n digwydd fyddai allan mewn kayak fory oherwydd mae môr yn fy amgylchynu fi yma yn Qatar. Dwi'n licio chwarae golff a sgio. Dwi yn hoff iawn o fy mwyd ac wrth fy modd yn mynd allan i fwyta.

Beth yw eich uchelgais am y ddeng mlynedd nesa?

Dwi ishe bod mor iach ag y gallai er mwyn i fi allu mwynhau amser gyda fy merch. Dwi'n lwcus ac wedi teithio yn eang felly dwi'n hapus yn byw mewn lle hyfryd fel Qatar. Mae fy merch yn Llundain a dwi'n ffeindio hi'n anodd bod mor bell oddi wrthi felly bob tro dwi'n cal gwylie dwi eisie treulio amser gyda Jodie.

Gyda pwy fasech chi'n hoffi cael pryd o fwyd?

Yn syml, fy merch Jodie. Efallai mai dim ond 6 yw Jodie ond mae hi gymaint o hwyl. Gyda hi dwi hapusa. Oherwydd fy swydd yn y cyfryngau dwi wedi bod yn lwcus i rannu bwrdd gyda nifer o enwogion mawr y byd.

Dim ond wythnos diwetha fues i'n mwynhau noson gyda Ernie Els o fyd golf – dyn dwi wedi ei edmygu ers blynyddoedd.

Pwy ydych chi'n eu hedmygu?

Mam a dad yn fwy na neb.

Beth yw eich gwyliau delfrydol?

Mae lle gennyf yn Sbaen. Dwi wrth fy modd yno. Neu Trefdraeth yn Sir Benfro.

Lle yw eich hoff dafarn neu fwyty yn y Fro?

Heb os dwi'n licio mynd i El Puerto's ym Mhenarth. Ma Tanny y perchennog, sef mab y diweddar Martinez, yn fachan sbesial ac yn edrych ar ôl ei gwsmeriaid yn arbennig ac ma'r bwyd yn syml ond o safon uchel.

DWYNWEN -O-GRAM!

LLONGYFARCHI ADAU mawr i Miranda Emmerson o'r Barri, enillydd ein cystadleuaeth Dwynwen-o-Gram eleni, gyda diolch hefyd i'w gŵr Chris am ei henwebu.

Gobeithio y cafoch chi Ddiwrnod Santes Dwynwen hapus iawn!

DRAMA STUDENTS' SUCCESS

Verity-Belle, Sam and Siwan pictured with their LAMDA grade 8 certificates and gold medals.

STAGECOACH Theatre Arts is celebrating success after excellent results achieved by students who recently entered London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA) exams.

Thirty students aged from six to 19 entered the globally recognised exams in either 'speaking of berse and prose' or 'acting', and once again the school maintains its 100 per cent pass rate.

Six-year-old Mia Randles was the youngest student to take an exam, and passed the 'introductory stage 2' level with distinction.

Siwan Wyn Henderson (19), Verity-Belle Atkinson (18) and Sam Walter (16) all took the highest level Grade 8 'solo acting' exam. They have every reason to be celebrating, as all three passed this gold medal grade with the highest mark of distinction.

Stagecoach principal Helene Reynolds commented: "We are delighted by these outstanding results, which reflect and reward the hard work, enthusiasm and talent of our students and tutors."

For more information, call Helene on 01446 772727.

Sixth former learns about life as an MEP

Jill Evans MEP and Bronwen Lloyd at the European Parliament.

SINCE 1999, Plaid Cymru MEP Jill Evans has welcomed many young people from Wales to the parliament in Brussels, and the latest is Bronwen Lloyd, a sixth form student at Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg.

Jill Evans said: "It's important to give young people from Wales the opportunity to see how the European Parliament works and how Wales can play its part.

"This helps to raise the profile of Wales in Europe, and scores of young people have been able to gain an insight into working in the EU institutions."

Bronwen Lloyd has been spending the week in Jill Evan's office in Brussels experiencing a wide range of activities including committee meetings, meetings with constituents and interest groups, as well as helping out with general duties in Jill's office.

Bronwen Lloyd said: "This was my first trip to Brussels, and even that was an experience in itself, but the parliament for me was definitely the main attraction.

"Since I'm bilingual, the translating booths in every committee room were extremely interesting, and to think that these important discussions were happening in several languages, was quite extraordinary."

GEM ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

In Business Update

New beginners' Pilates course

A NEW Pilates introductory course for beginners starts on February 26 at 11am in St Nicholas Hall, Barry.

It runs alongside six existing classes in Barry and two in Cowbridge.

Classes are small and friendly and are taught by qualified Pilates teacher, Sharon Sylvester.

Pilates exercises the whole body, using a range of mat-based exercises, combining use of the deep postural and stability muscles with movements of the arms and legs, breathing, suppleness and postural awareness.

Pilates is based on eight basic principles – concentration, breathing, centering, control, precision, flowing movements, integrated isolation, and routine.

To book your place, contact Sharon on 07830 085606, **first meeting of the new year***or see www.barrypilates.co.uk.*

Barry Pilates Classes
Mondays 9.15am, 10.30am & 5.30pm
Thursdays 10am & 11am
Fridays 6pm & 7.15pm
New Beginners Course
Start Thursday 26th February 11am
To Book or for more information
Sharon 07830 085606
www.barrypilates.co.uk

Free advice clinic on making a Will

HOPKINS LAW have introduced an innovative 'free advice clinic' on Tuesdays for advice on probate, Wills, powers of attorney and trust matters.

The clinics are open to everyone and appointments aren't always necessary, so it's a great opportunity to ask any niggling questions that have been bothering you.

The insurance company RIAS recently reported that over 8 million over-50s haven't yet made a Will – whether for fear of tempting Fate, or fear of the legal process.

The specialist solicitors at Hopkins Law will make your Will in plain English, and help you ensure that everything you hold dear is left to your loved ones in the future.

ADVICE ON WILLS & PROBATE
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Yes, that's right, FREE legal advice on Wills, probate issues, powers of attorney and family trusts at our weekly legal clinics every Tuesday during March. For appointments at other times, please pop in or telephone.
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CEO of AutoCom began aiding local businesses with their ICT system and network support in the early 1990s, successfully maintaining the same hourly and call-out charges ever since.

After the successful trade counter of computer hardware in Sully, the company moved to Penarth, dealing with personal, home and small businesses.

We have supported many local, national and multinational names on high street for their system and network support, including POS and CCTV system for businesses.

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Hypnotherapy can ease sleep disorders

DO you manage to get good quality sleep for between 6/8 hours each night?

Good quality sleep is vital to our health and well-being. Poor sleep or insomnia affects many areas of our life, often leading to poor concentration; feeling short-tempered, lacking in energy and motivation, and inability to cope with life.

Inability to sleep can become an obsession, thus exacerbating the problem.

Short periods of sleeplessness can affect us all; however, if it continues serious health and social problems can result.

Tackling sleep difficulties at the earliest opportunity helps to stop them becoming overwhelming.

Hypnotherapy can effectively reduce the difficulties that can lead to sleep disorders and work towards restoring good sleep patterns.

For more information, contact Sue Pitman at Cardiff Hypnotherapy Solutions, on 07795964066; www.cardiffhypnotherapysolutions.co.uk.

Sue Pitman
HPD, DHP,MNCH(Reg)
Clinical Hypnotherapist/ Psychotherapist
Contact Sue on
07795 964066 / 029 20654893
Confidential free initial consultation with no obligation at:
Barefoot Studio, Llandow nr Cowbridge.
The Business Centre, Barry.
Wellfield Osteopathic Clinic, Cardiff.
www.cardiffhypnotherapysolutions.com

Scouts and Guides uniforms available at The Pencil Case

IF your child is a Rainbow, Brownie, Guide, Beaver, Cub or Scout, you can now buy their uniform at The Pencil Case in Cowbridge.

The new range has been extremely well received by local parents, who are delighted that they no longer have to go into Cardiff, or order online and risk buying the wrong size.

All prices have been matched to John Lewis, and with free on-street parking right outside, it is easy for busy families to pop in and try the uniform on for size before buying.

The Pencil Case is open from 9am – 5pm, Tuesday to Saturday. Contact Sally on 01446 772210,or sally@thepencilcase.co.uk.

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GEM ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

In Business Update

Introducing Atlantic Secure Self-Storage…

INTRODUCING Atlantic Secure Self-Storage, Barry – the Vale's premier self-storage company.

Trading out of Atlantic Trading Estate, Barry, offering both external container storage in brand new watertight units, and the latest internal storage units ranging from 25 to 200 sq ft (you've all seen Storage Wars). Storage to suit with flexible terms and easy access with a lift servicing the upper floor.

For your added security, both internal and external storage units have 24-hour CCTV monitoring.

In addition, we provide an on-site forklift truck for the heavier loads, and staff are always available to lend a helping hand.

We are open seven days a week and we will endeavour to meet all your storage needs. As an added bonus, we can offer you a tailored pick-up and drop-off service and receive deliveries for you to ensure the best use of your precious time – no more hanging around waiting for other people to turn up.

We also supply file boxes, shelving and packaging materials. Browse our website for further details www.atlanticsecureselfstorage.co.uk.

We are located at Atlantic House, Unit 8, Atlantic Trading Estate, Barry, CF63 3RF; email info@atlanticselfstorage.co.uk; or telephone 01446 677648 or 07973 877383.

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NEARLY every high street legal firm has a conveyancing department and their fees vary quite dramatically.

Some solicitors offer you low fees to attract your attention. However, the more files they have for low fees, the less attention they may be able to give you.

Also, when you look at their disbursements there are hidden charges, such as acting for your mortgage lender. Make sure you look at the disbursements and costs against other firms that may appear more expensive.

Subsequently, it can sometimes be daunting to choose the right one for you. Estate Agents may recommend their panel solicitor. What does this mean?

Well, it may mean that on top of the solicitor's usual fee there may be an introducer fee paid and this can be added to the solicitor's standard rate; you should check this.

You may be happy to pay this because the solicitor and the estate agent or mortgage broker may have a good working relationship, or you may decide that you do not want to pay it.

Some lenders offer a 'factory type' conveyancing service far away from where you are based. It is not then possible to get to know your solicitor and call in for any queries that may come along.

So what should you do to find yourself a solicitor?

When you ask what their legal fees are, ask for a breakdown of their disbursements and get reassurances that you will only be paying the disbursements that they advise you about over the telephone;

Make sure you can call into the office if you have any queries or concerns. Choose local;

Contact solicitors direct for a quote, or call Alex and Tori.

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See www.newboldsolicitors.com, or contact alexandtor@newboldsolicitors.com (direct line 01446 700693, extension 1).

Fun Foundations' new accreditations

FUN FOUNDATIONS day nursery celebrated the new year with a succession of new accreditations…

It has been rated as a 5 by the Vale of Glamorgan Food Standards Agency. This is the top rating and means that the nursery has excellent hygiene standards.

It has received its Vale of Glamorgan Healthy and Sustainable Pre School Scheme second year assessment, which focussed on environment and mental and emotional health and well being.

The report stated that the nursery shows a very positive approach to mental and emotional health and well being, built on a commonsense approach.

Fun Foundations has also been working with the small health workplace award, which is the new national mark of quality for health and well-being in the workplace. The nursery has been awarded the bronze for this and is now working towards the silver.

The whole team at Fun Foundations are always active in their management of continuous development strategies, resulting in improving their practice for children, staff and parents.

To arrange a visit please call the team on 01446 771117 or take a look at the website at www.funfoundationsdaynursery.co.uk.

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Readers' Letters

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LETTERS AND E-MAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. An email address alone is not sufficient! We will (*in certain circumstances*) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

NHS contract

ONCE again, attacks are being mounted by Tories against our publicly-owned Welsh NHS, in order to distract attention from their stealthy and profit-oriented privatisation of the English NHS.

So perhaps readers who haven't followed the news closely, might like to note that the national media has reported that in the English NHS, a private health company was awarded an £80million contract – even though an NHS consortium bid was £7million lower.

Marc Delaney,
Barry.

Beating Bowel Cancer campaign

EVERYONE at Beating Bowel Cancer would like to thank all those in your local area who took part in our Decembeard fundraising campaign last month.

We are delighted to announce that we have reached our target of £250,000, which will help us to support people with bowel cancer and their families and to raise awareness of the disease, its symptoms and the need for early diagnosis.

The aim of the annual campaign, which asks men to ditch their razors and grow a beard throughout December, is to break down the stigma of talking about bowel cancer, which is the UK's second biggest cancer killer.

Over 100 people are diagnosed with bowel cancer every day, yet over 90 per cent of cases can be treated successfully if caught early.

So it's vital that people become more aware of the symptoms so they can act quickly.

Decembeard is a fun way for individuals or teams to raise funds and help to increase awareness of the disease

It's easy to do and thousands signed up for it this year. We would like to thank every one of them for their support.

If anyone has any queries or concerns about bowel cancer, there's lots of information and advice on our website, or they can call our Nurse Helpline on 020 8973 0011.

Mark Flannagan,
CEO, Beating Bowel Cancer
www.beatingbowelcancer.org

'ROAD CLOSURE COULD RESULT IN FATALITIES'

YOUR readers will be aware that the road from Ewenny to St Brides Major is to be closed for five months for a railway bridge to be replaced.

The result will be that all traffic from Wick, St Brides and beyond into and from Bridgend will have to take the coast road through Southerndown and Ogmore by Sea.

In the 32 years that I have lived in Ogmore, the road into Bridgend has been closed on many occasions, often on the bend where the road goes off to Norton and Heol y Mynndd.

There is clearly a likelihood of more accidents and closures as a result of the increased traffic.

There has been no consideration whatsoever of the effect on the access for emergency vehicles should the road through Ogmore be closed.

Perhaps the Vale Council, who agreed to this road closure, could advise (but doubt if they will) on the route from and into Bridgend, should the route out of Ogmore be closed, and the expected time for arrival of an ambulance or fire engine.

Having checked the alternative routes, it would appear to be at best 40-45 minutes, which could well lead to fatalities amongst our elderly village population.

(Dr) David Hawkridge,
Ogmore by Sea.

'IS THIS EXTRA HOUSING IN THE VALE NECESSARY?'

IN recent months, there has been an energetic debate in The GEM about housing locations in the Vale, whether more housing should be built in rural locations, in or around existing towns, or even whole new towns.

However, these debates have ignored the first question – is this housing necessary?

The Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan that proposes these developments – and which I and other Plaid Cymru councillors have consistently voted against in council – demands 9,900 new dwellings in the Vale.

But Welsh Government housing projections, published in February last year, say we only need 5,600.

Taking into account small scale housing and major developments like the Waterfront in Barry, the Vale Council has already given enough planning permission to meet our actual housing need until past 2026.

We should ask ourselves who is benefiting from this over-development?

If those who want to merge Cardiff with the Vale get their way, we will be in a very different position again.

After all, where will Cardiff Council want to build their houses other than on Vale greenfield sites?

Coun Ian Johnson,
Plaid candidate for the Vale of Glamorgan, Barry.

A FIREMAN'S TALE OF STEAM DAYS

BACK in 1952, King George VI had passed away and in Swindon's Locomotive Works, management were in turmoil, as the engine they needed for the funeral, 4082 *Windsor Castle* was under heavy repair.

A donor engine, 7013 *Bristol Castle*, exchanged names and numbers and became the new *Windsor Castle* 4083.

The deception was kept to the end of steam when both were scrapped.

Moving forward to 1962, as a fireman in Cardiff Canton 1953/1965, steam power was in decline, diesels were taking over the main line duties of the once proud *Castle* class engines.

So it was in that year that the driver and myself were waiting at Canton relief sidings to work a coal train to Bristol.

It arrived, at the head the once proud 4082 *Windsor Castle*, now deprived of its name and number which was chalked on the cab side, the copper and brass now faded, the green paint cracked and rusty.

Steam seemed to leak from every orifice. Reduced to running on slow lines, we arrived in Bristol five hours later.

We left the engine at Bristol Bath Road loco shed, a rough riding, poor steaming, but once pristine royal locomotive.

Tony Nicholas.

Mixed message?

DR JOHN SENTAMU, the Archbishop of York is no doubt a very thoughtful and intelligent churchman, but his recent lambasting of "our obsession with money, houses and luxury, leading to misery, not happiness," seems somewhat misplaced.

Whilst decrying these qualities, he is pictured in his robes in front of a magnificent house – Bishopthorpe Palace – near York, which has been the home of Archbishops of York for more than 750 years!

Christopher Short,
Barry.

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FRENCH APPRENTICES' FLYING VISIT

LEFT: Visiting French students at ICAT.

A GROUP of 43 French aeronautical engineering students came to Cardiff and Vale College to brush up on their English skills and get a taste of the UK aeroplane industry.

The students, aged between 16 and 25, from a college in Cruseilles, France, were also taken on visits to British Airways Maintenance Cardiff (BAMC) and GE's advance engine technology facility in Nantgarw, as well as trips to Cardiff for a taste of Welsh hospitality and culture.

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Appeal for pledges to secure part of Barry's heritage

The helm of the PS Barry.

AN attempt is being made to fundraise to ensure artefacts from the town's paddle steamer the *PS Barry* are returned to her home town.

Rather than wait until it is discussed fully, pledges only are requested for an important part of the town's maritime history. The bid could be lost if delayed too long.

I hope to secure a successful bid for Barry and I'm appealing to the people of the town to help by sending their pledges to: *kgmaritime.research@googlemail.com*.

The paddle steamer *Barry* was built for the Barry Railway Company in its venture at the time to capture a share of the Bristol Channel excursion trade.

On the withdrawal of the Barry company from steamer operations in 1910 she passed on to the Bristol Channel Passenger Boats Ltd.

Requisitioned in World War One, she was stationed in Greece, based in Salonika and took part in the Gallipoli landings.

She was refitted in 1920.

In 1926 she was renamed *Waverley* and sent to the Brighton station replacing *Ravenswood*.

She became *HMS Snaefell* in World War Two and attended Dunkirk, where she was involved in the rescue of her grounded stablemate *Glen Gower*.

She was sunk in a bombing raid off Sunderland on July 5, 1941.

On offer to our town at a realistic price are: two large solid brass windows; one brass helm with damaged wheel; a lamp, copper and glass.

JT Greenway.

Kids Aloud choir puts out call for talent

THE Wales Millennium Centre (WMC) is looking for young singers to join the Only Kids Aloud Chorus.

Following the success of the 2012 and 2014 Only Kids Aloud choirs, WMC and the Only Aloud charity are appealing for Wales's young performers to apply.

Children aged from nine to 13 years old from all over Wales are encouraged to audition, and applications can be made online.

Graeme Farrow of WMC said: "With performances at the Mariinsky Theatre in Russia and Cape Town's Artscape Theatre, the Only Kids Aloud Chorus has offered some truly unique opportunities for children from all backgrounds across Wales.

"The 2015 chorus promises to once again offer life-changing experiences for the country's top young choristers and I want to see children of all abilities and backgrounds apply."

To apply, visit *www.wmc.org.uk/OKA* and fill in the application form. A sound or video file of the applicant singing a section of a song should also be submitted.

The deadline for applications is February 9. Applicants must be living in Wales and aged between 9 and 13 (must be 14 years old or younger on 31 August 2016).

The Wales Millennium Centre will contact all successful applicants in early February to inform them about the next round of live auditions.

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Branch Director
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Vale of Glamorgan

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Visible Services and Housing
Civic Offices Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU or
Newydd Housing Association
121 Broad Street, Barry CF62 7AL

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H4U reference 287048
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Gardens

Rent £100.44 per week including water charges

BUTTLEE COURT, BARRY

Not suitable for applicants with mobility difficulties

H4U reference 1058691
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Two-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing

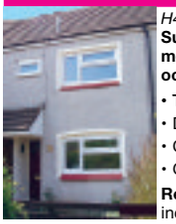
Rent £82.41 per week

BUTTLEE COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 110207
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Two-bedroom flat
- Lower ground floor (12 steps)
- Central heating
- Double-glazing

Rent £82.41 per week

CAERLEON ROAD, DINAS POWYS



H4U reference 110166
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
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- Double glazing
- Central heating
- Gardens

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CARDIGAN HOUSE, PENARTH

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CATHERINE MEAZEY, PENARTH

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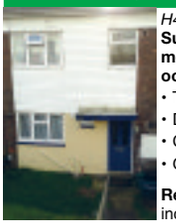

H4U reference 207000
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Three-bedroom house
- Double glazing
- Central heating
- Gardens

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DAWAN CLOSE, BARRY

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- Double glazing
- Warden and alarm

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FFORDD ELIN, BARRY

H4U Reference 986589
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- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Garden and parking

Rent £93.44 per week including service charges

HANOVER COURT, DINAS POWYS

H4U Reference 110221
Suitable for a single person over 60 (55 with medical need)
- One-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Scheme manager/alarm

Rent £112.43 per week

MAES YR YSGOL, BARRY

H4U reference 922210
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Two-bedroom house
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Enclosed rear garden

Rent £90.60 per week including service charges

NORTH WALK, BARRY

H4U reference 218188
Suitable for a single person over 40 – no pets
- One-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing

Rent £86.83 per week including water charges

PARKLAND WALK, BARRY

H4U reference 219493
Suitable for a single person over 55 – no pets
- One-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Community alarm

Rent £93.76 per week including water charges

PHILIPPA FREETH COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 110269
Suit for a single person or couple over 50 – no pets
- One-bedroom flat
- First floor (no lift)
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Parking
- Communal gardens

Rent £103.73 per week including service charges

PROCTOR CLOSE, BARRY

H4U reference 221850
Suit. for a single person or couple over over 55
- One-bed bungalow
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Community alarm
- Gardens

Rent £115.09 pw inc. alarm and water charges

ST CATHERINES COURT, BARRY

H4U reference 207000
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Three-bedroom house
- Double glazing
- Central heating
- Gardens

Rent £102.21 per week including water charges

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H4U reference 104210
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
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- Double glazing

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WILLIAMS CRESCENT, BARRY

H4U reference 228339
Suit. for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement – no pets
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- First floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing

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Golfing farmers survive the Arctic weather!

BLIZZARD conditions combined with strong winds, driving rain and brief periods of sunshine were just a few of the ingredients experienced by the 29 members of the Glamorgan Farmers' Golf Society when visiting Swansea Bay Golf Club last Thursday to compete for the Llanharan Concrete Trophy and quality prizes supplied by sponsor Mr Gino Cocco.

Winner John Caines

With the temperature hovering around freezing point playing conditions were extremely difficult and somewhat dangerous but thankfully everyone returned home safely despite some hair-raising moments.

On two occasions 79-year-old Aubrey Thomas gave his playing partners Geraint Davies and Griff Morgan a perfect demonstration of how to ski down a slippery incline demolishing a few gorse bushes en route.

Thankfully for Aubrey the quick action of Geraint and Griff, with only limited experience of dealing with cuts and bruises in the equine market, resulted in just a small amount of blood being lost and more importantly for Aubrey, his famous zipless wallet remaining intact.

As the temperature continued to drop below freezing point the lack of knowing how many fingers were still attached to the wrist became a problem particularly for Bryan Owen.

Bryan's approach shot to the 18th green will long be remembered for the distance his selected 7-iron travelled having left the palm of Bryan's frozen hand.

Not surpassingly many returned to the clubhouse with scores not to be proud of but credit to the majority of competitors for completing their round with just three members making an early return for a warm shower.

Credit however must be given to the overall winner John Caines, who scored 31 stableford points, and also to runner up Dai John, who scored 30 points.

This was the second time in a week that Dai John had finished runner up in a major competition and the mind boggles at the thought of what this popular businessman from Cowbridge could achieve if only he gave up his day job!

David Williams finished third with 28 points and Griff Morgan finished fourth also with 28 points. Jon Lane was the highest scoring guest and was also successful in being nearest the pin on one of the Llanerch Vineyard and Restaurant sponsored par 3 holes together with Neil McLean, Paul Dimbleby and Martyn Edwards.

For the second month running John Caines hit the longest drive to win the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge sponsored prize and David Williams returned home with the Premier Turf sponsored bottle of whiskey when correctly guessing 48 balls would spend the night in the cold.

This raised £80 for the Noah's Ark charity which sponsor Gino Cocco and his wife Audrey have supported for many years.

Members are now looking forward to the annual Presentation evening scheduled for Friday, February 20 at the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge.

TMcC

Taylor Wimpey

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*Distances approximate. Price and details correct at time of going to press. Computer generated image shows a typical Taylor Wimpey street scene at Channel Heights, photograph shows a typical Taylor Wimpey interior which may include optional upgrades, available at additional cost. Please ask our Sales Executive for details.

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Oxford Street, Barry - £162,500
Two bedroom semi detached. West end of Barry. Entrance hallway. Downstairs w/c. Living room. Kitchen/dining room. Bathroom. Enclosed front and rear gardens. Double garage/workshop. UPVC double glazing. Gas central heating. EPC rating: D. NO CHAIN.

Claude Road West - £199,950
Three bedroom bay fronted property situated in the West End of Barry. Accommodation briefly comprising; entrance porch. Hallway. Lounge. Dining room. Kitchen. Summer room. Bathroom to first floor.Loft room. Large rear garden. NO CHAIN.

Southesk Place, Barry - £179,950
Three bedroom semi detached property, west end of Barry. Entrance porch. Hallway. Lounge. Dining room. Kitchen. Lean-to conservatory. Downstairs utility/wc. Bathroom. Gas central heating. Majority UPVC double glazing. Enclosed forecourt and rear garden. EPC Rating B. NO CHAIN.

Maes Glas, Barry - £259,950
Well presented four bedroom detached residence situated in a cul de sac. Hallway. Lounge. Dining area. Sitting room. Kitchen. Utility room. Conservatory. Downstairs w/c. Family bathroom and en suite shower room to master bedroom. UPVC double glazing. Gas central heating. Enclosed rear garden. Driveway for two vehicles. EPC rating: D. IDEAL FAMILY HOME.

Birchgrove, Barry - £299,950
Three double bedroom semi detached in the highly desirable Knap area. Entrance hallway. Two reception rooms. Kitchen. Conservatory. First floor bathroom. UPVC double glazing. Gas central heating. Enclosed front and rear gardens. Driveway providing off road parking for two vehicles. Single garage. Viewing highly recommended to appreciate the property's potential to extend. EPC rating: C. NO CHAIN.

Milburn Close, Rhoose - £445,000
Unique, executive detached four bedroom residence. Porch. Hallway. Lounge. Dining room. Kitchen. Utility room. Conservatory. Bathroom and two bedrooms. Bedroom two with en suite shower room and balcony. Master with en suite, office and dressing room. Generous gardens. Driveway parking for three vehicles. Garage. UPVC double glazing. Gas central heating. EPC Rating D. VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.

Pontypridd Rd, Barry - £274,950
This four bedroom detached bungalow overlooking the woods. West end of Barry. Entrance porch. Hallway. Two large reception rooms. Kitchen. Bathroom. Shower room. Enclosed front and rear gardens. Driveway with off road parking for 3/4 vehicles. EPC Rating: D. NO CHAIN.

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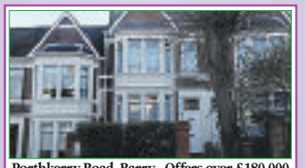
Pontypridd Rd, Barry - £325,00
This three/four bedroom detached bungalow offering generous accommodation. Open porch. Entrance hallway. Two/three reception rooms. Kitchen. Utility room. Conservatory. Two bathrooms. Majority UPVC double glazing. Gas central heating via combi boiler, parquet flooring. Front and rear gardens. Driveway with offroad parking for numerous vehicles. Double garage.

Pontypridd Rd, Barry - £325,000
Rare to the market... Well presented detached former bungalow set on a generous plot. Open porch. Entrance hallway. Lounge/dining room. Kitchen/family room. Utility room. Family bathroom. Three bedrooms/office to the ground floor. Master bedroom and en suite to the first floor. UPVC glazing. Gas central heating. Front and rear garden. Driveway for 2/3 vehicles. Single garage benefiting from power. VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.

Port Road, East - £359,950
Detached four double bedroom family home overlooking the Vale. Porch. Entrance hallway. Two reception rooms. Kitchen/breakfast room. Utility room. Ground floor shower room and family bathroom. Balcony to master bedroom overlooking the Vale. Gas central heating and partial double glazing. Generous rear garden. Front courtyard. Double garage. EPC rating: D.

Plot rear of Fontygary Rd, Rhoose - £175,000
Available to purchase a single plot in the village of Rhoose. Entrance via South View. The plot has planning permission for a three bedroom detached residence of contemporary design as seen by architects drawings. South-facing. Views of Bristol Channel and Devon coastline. For more info contact Angela on 01446 709933.

Churchfields, Barry - £225,000
Well presented four bedroom detached property set in a cul de sac. East end of Barry. Accommodation comprising; entrance hallway. Lounge. Dining room. Modern fitted kitchen. Utility room. Downstairs w/c. Bathroom and en suite shower room. UPVC double glazing. Gas central heating. Front and rear gardens. Driveway for 4 vehicles. Garage. EPC rating: D. NO CHAIN.



Porthkerry Road, Barry - Offers over £180,000
Four bedroom traditional bay fronted property. West end of Barry. Entrance porch. Hallway. Three reception rooms. Kitchen. Utility area. Small office. Bathroom. Gas central heating. UPVC double glazing. Enclosed forecourt and rear garden. EPC rating: C. NO CHAIN.

Whitehouse, Barry - £339,000
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Wenvoe Terrace, Barry - £174,950
Traditional bay fronted, mid terrace property. Three bedrooms and an office/nursery. Situated within the West End panoramic views across Barry Waterfont and the Bristol Channel. Entrance hallway. Lounge. Sitting room. Dining room. Kitchen. Bathroom. UPVC double glazing. Gas central heating.

Pardoe Crescent, Barry - New Price £129,950
Two double bedroom semi detached property situated in the heart of Barry benefiting from far reaching views. Entrance hallway. Lounge. Kitchen/dining room. Bathroom. Approx. 140' enclosed rear garden. In close proximity to local amenities and bus routes. EPC Rating: D.

Coigne Terrace, Barry - £135,000
Refurbished to a very high standard throughout... Three bedroom bay fronted property. In the heart of Barry. Entrance porch. Hallway. Living room. Contemporary fitted kitchen and bathroom. UPVC double glazing. Gas central heating via combi boiler. Front and rear gardens. Viewing highly recommended. NO CHAIN.

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Dinas RFC edge Barry in top-of-the-table clash

THE eagerly anticipated top of the table clash between two unbeaten sides in Barry RFC and Dinas Powis RFC unfolded in dramatic fashion on a cold Saturday afternoon.

Barry's preparations were not helped when centre Dave Provis pulled up in the warm-up, so Ashley Adams returned to the starting line-up with Richie O'Sullivan drafted onto the bench from the 2nd XV.

With the slope and wind behind them, Dinas Powis tried to play a high tempo game in an attempt to score first. Barry defended stoutly in their own half, but their cause was further disrupted by flanker Callum Scott going off with an injury after only five minutes.

Dinas used their strong runners from the base of the scrum and midfield, and they were to cause the home side problems all afternoon.

Barry did not help themselves with some uncharacteristic errors in defence, and relied heavily on Einan Scott's boot to relieve the pressure.

After turning down several kickable penalty opportunities, the visitors finally accepted one near the posts to open the scoring to take a deserved 3-0 lead.

With halftime looming, the visitors struck a further blow, taking full advantage of Barry being down to 14 men as they took advantage of a series of missed tackles to score in the corner. The conversion was missed to leave the score 8-0 at the interval.

Knowing that they need to take the game to their visitors, Barry finally awoke from their slumber and used their own strong runners, with Luke O'Sullivan, Alyn Evans and captain Martin Tanner to the fore.

The pressure finally told when Scott reduced the deficit with a well-struck penalty following a Dinas indiscretion in the contact area.

Sensing a momentum swing, and aided by a flurry of yellow cards for both sides, Barry poured forward looking for the equalising score.

A neat exchange of passes saw Ashley Adams seemingly ground the ball underneath the posts, but the referee had other ideas and instead awarded a five-metre scrum.

Barry chased for the five-pointer instead of going for goal, but they lacked real penetration against a resolute Dinas defence and that, combined with the home side losing crucial line-outs in opposition territory, meant that the chance was gone.

Barry would have one more opportunity to score when good play in midfield involving Scott and Perry sent Brad White clear, but a last-ditch ankle tap foiled his assault to the line.

Instead the away side controlled the game perfectly with good tactical kicking and ball recycling, and scored a drop-goal from in front of the posts to seal an 11-3 victory.

The 1st XV will hope to bounce back this weekend with a trip to Caerau Ely, while the 2nd XV host Llandaff and the 3rd XV are home to Fairwater.

Team: T Scott; Adams, Perry, White, Ryan; E Scott, Lee; Evans, Vidal, Hollister; Tanner ©, H Jones; Goodfellow, C Scott, L O'Sullivan. Replacements: Sullivan, Giddings, Poole, not used: Mepham, R O'Sullivan. Man of the match: L O'Sullivan.

KC

A case of lucky 13 for Sully Sports

WITHOUT a game for eight weeks, Sully Sports took on Llanrumney's 13 players on this sunny but cold day.

Sully took a while to settle into the game and you could see how rusty they were. This was also always going to be a tough game but Sully soon found their feet and started to run the game plan.

All players wanted to get their hands on the ball, but patience and continuity was the call from the sidelines. Barnstorming runs from all and dancing feet from Peter Brown soon led to a try being scored.

Dai Harris was controlling the plays and ensuring the pressure was kept on and the defence stayed strong.

That said, Llanrumney had come to play a game and that they did, with both sides ensuring the tempo was kept high.

The second half started much as the first with both sides throwing the ball around and trying to gain the upper hand by any means, with both sides scoring some well-worked tries.

It has been rumoured that Peter Brown has been taking tips from Dai Harris as his dancing skills and spatial awareness was second to none, ensuring another score, while Jake Williams made sure the backs had some of the play and kept Sully on the front foot.

So, after a long lay off Sully Sports got back on the pitch and kept their league dreams alive, final score 61-10. Thank you to Llanrumney for honouring this fixture with 13 players and supporters, they stuck at the task in hand and gave us a run for our money.

This week we face Cardiff Saracens.

Squad: Jody Velda, Jamie Griffiths, Sam Bowditch, Ben Such, Ross Eason, Alex Szuchnik, Peter Brown, Gareth Foxall, Dean Russell, Harry Moyle, Curtis Miller, John Thomas, Jon Blake, Rhys Manford, Dai Harris, Barrie Phillips, Jake Williams, Scott Lewis, Lee Walters, Dave Weston, Damion Huggins, Matt Phillips.

Training is every Tuesday and Thursday starting at 6pm - anyone looking to start playing feel free to come along or contact Gareth Ivory via the club website.

GI

Barrivale results

LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club for January 27 (this event was a charity sims heat to raise funds for the Ebola crisis):

1st Peter Millar & Mick Green 68.07%; 2nd Jane Brook & Mike Close 60.76%; 3rd Celia & Huw Thomas 58.75%. Peter Millar and Mick Green also won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. A partner may be arranged if required.

If you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

DR

PROMISING START TO SEASON FOR LOCAL NETBALL CLUB

WESTEND 1 netball team has started well in the Cardiff & District League, ending the first half of the season in fourth position.

Westend 2 started well but lost a couple of players due to injuries and are now hoping that in the second part of the season, they will come back fighting.

Westend netball team would like to thank United Carpets and Beds, Cardiff, for sponsoring them this season.

Hockey team are sunk by late goal

WITH the 2nd XI on a week off, Penarth Hockey Club's focus fell on its senior team as they welcomed divisional frontrunners Hereford for the return of a fixture they'd rather forget.

Having gone down to a heavy defeat at Hereford Racecourse earlier in the season, Penarth welcomed their promotion-contending opposition to a very cold Barry Sports Centre with a degree of trepidation, but also determined to salvage a modicum of pride.

Both teams started the game well, with a very good standard of hockey being played until a defensive lapse allowed Hereford to open the scoring. The setback, however, only served to spur Penarth to greater effort and they really got into the game, moving the ball well throughout the pitch and eventually winning the first penalty corner.

Unfortunately for the Vale side, lady luck wasn't impressed with their endeavours and, when the corner broke down, Hereford wasted little time in going the length of the field to double their lead.

The 2-0 scoreline remained through to the halftime interval, but Penarth were by no means out of the game and started the second period strongly. Their continued pressure finally took its toll on the visitors and led to another penalty corner thanks to some fine stick work from Phil Lane.

This time, the corner routine worked, with Chris Baker receiving a short feed before forcing the Hereford keeper into a sharp save. Although the initial effort came to nought, Tom Haran followed in to convert the rebound into the bottom corner.

Buoyed by pulling a goal back, Penarth put Hereford under pressure straight from the restart, and won the ball back just outside the visitors' 25.

Passing the ball well, the Vale side eventually found Lane in space, and the veteran striker smashed the ball past the helpless keeper to bring the sides level.

Despite their best efforts, however, Penarth could not add a third goal, and paid for their efforts when Hereford capitalised on a lapse in defensive concentration to retake the lead with five minutes to go.

The defeat drops Penarth to eighth in the De Cymru & The Marches 1 standings, making this weekend's trip to bottom side Cheltenham something of a must-win game.

Having taken a week off due to the odd number of teams in De Cymru 2, Penarth's 2nd XI will return to action with games on both Saturday and Sunday as they face co-leaders Gwent 'A' in Barry and follow that up with a re-arranged trip to face a Whitchurch 'E' side currently one place and one point ahead of them in the De Cymru table.

Penarth Hockey Club always welcomes new, old and returning players, umpires, supporters, friends and helpers regardless of age and ability. Training takes place on the artificial turf at Barry Sport Centre every Wednesday, with the juniors in action between 6-7pm and seniors between 7-8pm.

Further information can be obtained from club secretary Dave Stevens via d_stevens81@hotmail.co.uk.

CL

Goalless draw for Dinas Powys FC

THE Dinas Powys players had a point to prove against Penrhiwceiber Rangers after the very poor performance of the week before.

The club has been reshaped this year using as many local players as possible and building with youth. On Saturday, the villagers went about the match showing a desire and passion to play for the badge, which is something that has been lacking in recent matches.

In the opening 15 minutes Ben Ahmum managed to fire wide on two occasions - this sent out a warning that the home side were going to play on the front foot.

Moments later, young winger Luke Swain beat his man to fire in a low cross that Carlos Indjai just failed to get to.

As the home side pushed on they were awarded a penalty after Ahmum was brought down. Nicky Bruce, the talented full back, having scored his last two from the spot, was unlucky as the keeper pulled off the save to force it wide.

In the opening half the match was very evenly balanced with the visitors looking very threatening from set plays. New signing Connor Caton dealt with these crosses very well, winning countless headers.

At the break, Dinas were forced to make changes, losing the entertaining Swain through a nasty knock to the ankle. Joe Briscombe slotted in at full back and Nicky Bruce pushed forward.

The home side really had a go and threw bodies forward and created a number of good chances, but the quality of the final ball was missing.

Sam Johnson had a golden chance to win the match in the final 10 minutes but he failed to get a good connection with his head.

Using Atif Bashir as the target man allowed Dinas to play a higher line, as the experienced player held the ball well, playing in the young Dinas players.

The defence were very strong as Caton led by example and Marr, Bloxham and Briscombe all followed his passion to win the ball, keeping a clean sheet and giving Curtin an easy 45 minutes.

James and Ahmum in the middle again showed touches and awareness as they both covered every blade of grass.

This was a very pleasing display from the youngest Dinas team for many a year, well done lads.

The club would like to wish James Marr all the best on his travels to south America.

Dinas Powys ladies travelled up the M4 to Newport in a game where they were keen to put the record straight.

The conditions of the playing surface were not conducive for their passing game, and with this in mind they opted for a long ball style and created numerous chances that they failed to put away.

Newport had two attacks within the opening eight minutes and scored with both chances. As the half went on chances fell to Murray, Phillips, Beare and a simple chance for Howells. Eventually Howells converted her chance with a nice neat finish.

The second half was a carbon copy of the first with the visitors applying the pressure but failing to convert the chances. Ellen Samelius came on for Howells and should have had a hat-trick inside 10 minutes but fluffed her lines.

The breakthrough came too late as Phillips fired home from close range to earn a point, but this was seen as two points dropped rather than three points gained from the Dinas Ladies.

LS

Barry and District mens skittle league

DIVISION 1:

Bunker Boys (A.Jeynes, L.Evens 30) 293, Park Rangers (S.Dite 30) 256; Colcot Boys (B.Sullivan 28) 274, Park Lads (D.Baker, G.Jones 28) 285; Ex-Servicemen (T.Cacicia 28) 255, 49'ers (M.Gould, K.Yarr 25) 262; Mighty Dockers (P.Burroughs 28) 272, Colcot Boys (D.James 28) 273; The Hairy Lemons (S.Gully, S.Linney, J.Bonham 24) 242, Barry Park 'B'(B.Hopkins 28) 243.

Division 2: BP Breakaways (J.Rees, J.Mills 27) 254, Witchill Poachers (G.Davies 29) 271; Abercrete (R.Mears 31) 296, Posties (B.Usher 28) 281; Buffs Exiles (A.Boucheron 27) 26, The Royalists (G.Davies 28) 246; Road Runners (R.Peterson 26) 249, Willie Wombles (P.Jefferies 26) 249; Tynewydd Lads (S.Sluman 29) 276, Barry Social (P.Thomas 33) 270.

Division 3: Billy Bluebirds (R.Ferguson 29) 265,C.U.D. (G.Sheppard 29) 252; Castle Boys (M.Bond 29) 224, The Alteratives (I.Howells 25) 362; Commanchies '2' (A.Germon, J.Gregg 28) 275, Cannon Balls (G.Curry 36) 300; KP Monkeynuts (K.Payne 32) 303, 'H'Bells (T.Mullins 33) 309; The Alternative (M.Antond 29) 287, Billy Bluebirds (D.Watkins 33) 271.

HR

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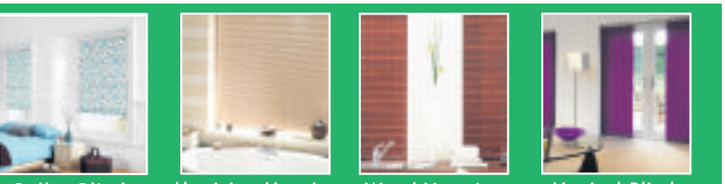
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Gwnaethpwyd y Gorchymyn uchod ar 19 Ionawr 2015. Effaith y Gorchymyn fydd cau'r llwybr troed cyhoeddus sy'n arwain o GGC 307050 166100 i'r de o'r rheilffordd yn Y Rhws hyd at GGC 307054 166009 ac yn agor ar Drem Echni, fel y'i dangosir ar fap y Gorchymyn, yn barhaol.

Bydd copïau o'r Gorchymyn a map y Gorchymyn ar gael i'w hastudio'n rhad ac am ddim yn ystod yr wythnos, yn Swyddfa'r Doc, Heol yr Isffordd, Y Barri CF63 4RU rhwng 9.00am a 4.00pm. Bydd copïau o'r Gorchymyn a'r map ar werth yn y fan honno am £4.50 yr un.

Cewch wneud sylwadau ar y Gorchymyn neu'i wrthwynebu drwy anfon neu ddod â llythyr i'r cyngor. Dylech ei gyfeirio at Gyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Datblygu Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Swyddfa'r Dociau, Heol yr Isffordd, Y Barri, CF63 4RT a sicrhau ei fod yn ein cyrraedd erbyn 5 Mawrth 2015. Dylech hefyd nodi eich holl resymau dros ymateb.

Os na ddaw unrhyw sylwadau neu wrthwynebiadau i law yn y modd priodol, neu os caiff unrhyw rai a wnaethpwyd eisoes eu tynnu'n ôl, bydd hawl i Gyngor Bro Morgannwg gadarnhau'r Gorchymyn ei hun fel Gorchymyn diwrthwynebiad. Os anfonir y Gorchymyn at Weinidogion Cymru ar gyfer ei gadarnhau, bydd unrhyw sylwadau neu wrthwynebiadau nas tynnwyd yn ôl, yn cael eu hanfon gyda'r Gorchymyn.

Dyddiedig 5 Chwefror 2015

VALE of GLAMORGAN
BRO MORGANNWG

NOTICE OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990, SECTION 257 AND PARAGRAPH 1 OF SCHEDULE 14 THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO 2 PORTHKERRY (PART) PUBLIC PATH STOPPING UP ORDER 2015

The above Order was made on the 19th day of January 2015. The effect of the Order will be to stop up the public footpath running from NGR 307050 166100 south of the rail line in Rhoose to NGR 307054 166009 where it exits on to Trem Echni, as shown on the Order map.

A copy of the Order and the Order map may be seen free of charge at the Dock Office, Subway Road, Barry, CF63 4RT from 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. on any weekday. Copies of the Order and map may be bought there at the price of £4.50.

Any representation about or objection to the Order, may be sent or delivered in writing addressed to the Director of Development Services, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Subway Road, Barry, CF63 4RT not later than the 5th day of March 2015. Please state the grounds on which it is made.

If no such representations or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn, The Vale of Glamorgan Council may itself confirm the Order as an unopposed Order. If the Order is sent to the Welsh Ministers for confirmation, any representations or objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the Order.

Dated this 5th day of February 2015

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GEM FAMILY NOTICES

McLEAN
Richard

Heartfelt thanks to everyone for all the love, support, cards, flowers and meals after the recent sad loss of Richard. Also, thank you to all who attended his funeral.

Thanks to Reverend Huw Butler, Reverend Phil Hibbert and John James, Fonmon, for the 'spot on' service. There is a huge amount of human kindness and compassion amongst the people of Llantwit Major. Deo gratis.

Jim & Tricia McLean, April & family.

JOHN
Elsie Irene

Elsie, of St Athan, died peacefully at Milsom House Nursing Home on January 27th. Devoted wife of the late Llyn, loving mother to Sue and the late Jayne, mother-in-law to John, grandmother to Kristian and great-grandmother to Alex.

You will be remembered fondly by us all, but you and Dad are together again.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Monday February 9, service and cremation 11.30am at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to The Alzheimers Disease Society c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

WATTS
Portia Rosina

Suddenly on January 27 at her home in Barry, Portia, beloved daughter of the late Arthur and Eunice Watts of Rhoose, dearly loved sister of David and Gillian, loving aunt of Vicky, Sophie and Myfanwy.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Tuesday February 10, service and cremation 12 noon at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to Kidney Research, c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

RUPUCIS
Grace (*née Tetley*)

Peacefully on 25th January in Barry Hospital, Grace aged 82 years, beloved wife of the late Robert, dear mother to Andrew.

Greatly loved and missed by all her family and friends.

Resting at A G Adams & Son, Gladstone Road, Barry until the service in the funeral home chapel on Friday, 13th February at 10.30am, afterwards to Trealaw Cemetery. Family flowers only please, if wished donations may be sent in Grace's memory to the Alzheimer's Society c/o 16 Columbus Walk, Atlantic Wharf, Cardiff CF10 4BY.

Tabert
Bryan

Denise and family would like to thank everyone for the gifts, messages and lovely cards at this sad time.

In Memory of
William Job Northway (Bill)

4th February 1933 to 4th February 2014.

Passed away one year ago on February 4.
Not just today but every day, we all remember you with love and affection.

Love you forever - Eunice, Jane, Tosh, Esther, Mike, Caroline, Tiernan, all the grandchildren and great grandson. xxxxx

In Memory
BILL NORTHWAY

My darling husband and loving dad.
Passed away on 4 February 2014.
One year ago, I miss you more than ever,
My thoughts are of you every day,
Till we meet again all my love,
Eunice.

LEER
Alf

Joyce and family would like to express their thanks for all the support, kind messages of sympathy and attendance at the funeral following the sad loss of Alf.

Our sincere thanks to Reverend Susan Moll for officiating at the service and Thomas Brothers Funeral Directors.

A special thanks also to Tony for the touching eulogy.

STANTON
Patricia

One year today.

Missed by all your family and your loving husband Tony, you will always be remembered

Goodnight babes xx

PREW
Clifford (Charlie)

Died on January 31st in Llandough Hospital aged 89 years. Beloved husband of Marion. Much loved father to Sharon, Tina, Jackie and step daughter Linda. Proud granddad and great granddad.

Funeral service to take place at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry on Monday, 9th February at 10.15am. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to Prostate Cancer Support Unit, UHW.

FARLEY
Patricia Ann

Peacefully on January 30 at Holme Tower, Penarth, Tricia of Rhoose, dearly loved sister of Avril and brother-in-law of Alex.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Friday February 13, service 11.45am at St. Marys Church, Penmark, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 1pm, no mourning attire. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to Marie Curie Cancer Care c/o Mrs C James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

Birthdays

Happy Birthday
GARETH JAMIESON
on 8th February,
Best wishes from all your friends at the Gem

Ffion Goodland
Happy 18th Birthday
on 9th February 2015
Have a fab day!
Lots of love, Nan, Bampy, Auntie Melissa & Auntie Kath xxx

Jessica Lewis
Happy 18th Birthday
on 8th February 2015
Lots of love, Mum, Dad, Brother, Nan, Gramps & family xxx

Happy 50th Birthday
Deb Morris
11th February

to a wonderful wife & mum
Love Richard, Victoria, Charlotte & Abigail xxxx

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Barry Amateur Swimming Club holds its AGM and presentation evening

ON Saturday, January 31, the Barry Amateur Swimming Club held its AGM and presentation evening in the Cadoxton Conservative Club upstairs event room.

The chairman, Mrs Heulwen Cooper, welcomed life members, parents and swimmers to the Barry Swimming Club's 89th AGM and the report for the year 2014.

Apologies had been received from several members including Mrs Sheila Owens, who with her husband Ray had been with the Barry Swimming Club for over 40 years. Unfortunately last September Ray died and our club will greatly miss his care and assistance.

Ray had been an essential member of the club, and following the death of Mr Ray Sutton, our very long standing chief coach some years ago, Ray Owens had been responsible for securing the continuation of the club for many years. He had also been the club president for several years.

The minutes of our AGM last year were accepted with the addition of Mrs Jenny Wilcox whose presence had been omitted.

It was reported that the club had competed in the National Arena Swimming League once more and our final result placed us third from bottom in Division 2 of the league.

We were very happy to be in this position as our membership has declined greatly over the recent years. We have very few male members currently, which greatly affect our chances of gaining points at galas.

Many of our boys had to swim up several age groups which was very tiring apart from the disadvantage that the other swimmers were bigger and faster in the other lanes. We also thanked our volunteer masters swimmers once again for being willing to help us again.

This year, unfortunately, Paul Buckle found that he could no longer commit time to continue as a club coach. Paul had been a stalwart member for some time despite his children having left the club many years previously.

We were very fortunate that Jonathan Davies and Roger Welch stepped in and were doing a great job with our junior and new swimmers. However we need more volunteers to offer to help with the 7pm hour on Monday.

Some of our older swimmers, Ryan Connor and Jack Parry, have been helping in this hour and are doing some excellent work.

We will soon be swimming the Postal Long Distance Swim for girls with the boys swimming it the following week. The Postal Swim requires swimmers to swim as many lengths of the pool as possible in one hour and each age group will be competing with other club swimmers from all parts of the UK.

We've had a few first places at this event and several medals in recent years. Then, on July 4, most of our swimmers will be competing in the Cardiff Bay Meet. This competition has been running for 26 years and is organised by our club at the Cardiff Pool. Last year this Gala made a profit of over £4,000 for our club.

Swim Wales have recently issued a new club constitution which all member clubs have to accept and adopt. This had been placed on to the club's Facebook page so that all parents had an opportunity to read it. The acceptance of the new constitution was proposed and seconded and it was therefore now operational for the club.

The treasurer issued copies of the annual report for 2014 and this showed that the club was in a far better financial position than had been the case 12 months ago.

Club captains had been chosen by the coaches: club captains, girls - captain Georgia Looker, vice captain Ffion Goodland; boys - captain Ryan Connor, vice captain Jack Parry. Both Georgia and Ffion will be going to university in September and we asked Bethan Williams to take the captain's post from September

The meeting moved on to the presentation of trophies won by swimmers at the annual championship galas in November. The club possesses in the region of 50 trophies which are presented annually to the championship winners.

SPECIAL TROPHIES

Mike Looker, our very hard-working coach, presented the trophies to the winners.

Following the championship presentations some special trophies were awarded.

Best runner up is awarded to a boy and a girl who have competed in our annual championships but who haven't actually won a cup in any of the five championship events.

Each swimmer is awarded points for the place he or she comes in each event, six for first place, five for second, etc, and the boy and girl who have not won any events but have the highest total of points over all events.

This year the winners of these cups were girls - in second place Daisy Thomas but the winner was Ffion Goodland; boys – second was Aaron Belby, the winner was Tomos Pugh.

Best newcomer is awarded to the girl and boy swimmer who had joined the club within the past year and who may have been a good or maybe not so good a swimmer upon joining, but who had worked hard to reach a very good standard in his/her age group since joining the club.

Several new members had joined the club during the year but they were girls and we had almost no new boys so for this year we decided to withdraw the boys' cup in this category.

However, one of the girls stands out for her determination and her enormous improvement in a relatively short time – Connie Millar.

The best novice swimmer is awarded to the girl and boy swimmer who are fairly young and have only been a member of the club for a couple of years.

He/she was probably not a very good swimmer when he/she joined the club, but has worked extremely hard since joining and has improved his/her swimming technique and ability greatly. Several youngsters were considered, however two young members were deemed as the best novice swimmers for 2014 – Isabelle Thomas and Henry Davies.

Most improved swimmer goes to a swimmer who has been a member of the club for quite some time but whose competitive ability and performance had improved significantly during the past year.

Several members had made a great deal of improvement during the year, but eventually it was agreed that the two who had improved most spectacularly were Nia Fuller, shared with Pia Sully, and Taylor Albertides.

We had a trophy which was presented to a member who has shown a great deal of effort and loyalty; however two members stand out as winners of thE cup this year – Jack Parry and Ryan Connor.

Club member of the year is awarded every year to one male and one female adult member for their work during their time at the club.

Many people had been considered for working on behalf of the club, however Caroline Smart had done so much to help this year – she had stepped up to help Mike out with the coaching, she had helped with team selection for galas and most of all she was now producing our very colourful and informative newsletter, so she was a deserving winner.

We've also several men who have worked very hard this year. We've had a hard time due to several of our experienced members leaving.

As we know Mike Looker has been a brick once more and has almost singlehandedly supported all our training sessions and we are most grateful to him for his very, very hard work and dependability. He is already a life member of the club and a very important one.

Many others have given us a lot of their time to help in many ways - however two gentlemen have helped greatly taking on the training of our junior swimmers. They've worked very hard and will be prepared to step up to help in the later session eventually.

We were so grateful to both Roger and Jonathan for all the hard, dependable work they've put in this year – we couldn't pick one of them so we presented them with the cup to share this year and thanked both for all the work.

Some others had put in some exceptional time and effort during the year - Elaine Romain had taken on a whole load of extra work for the club over the past year, despite her daughter Amy having left the club.

Elaine had been a very hardworking member of the club for many years, but for the past year she had taken on far more of the responsibilities than she should have done. For her loyalty, Elaine was given life membership of the club.

Another person who had worked under the radar for many years was Mr Martin Harries. His children left the club several years ago but he stayed with us, attending most Sunday morning sessions still and trialling new members when necessary.

Martin was fixture secretary for many years previously. We were most grateful to him for his help on Sundays and we also awarded Martin life membership of the club.

The chairman thanked all for attending the meeting and moved on to the disco, where a great night was had by all.

HC

Sully bowlers aim for the top!

SULLY bowls teams are aiming for their strongest finish to a season for a number of years with the Championship side having the opportunity to finish near the top of the league table if they beat Newport this Saturday at Newport, starting from 2pm.

The Sully seniors have qualified for the national play-offs by winning their division, losing just one game in the process, and now travel to Pontardawe on Tuesday, February 10, to play Selway from west Wales in the quarter-finals.

The Sully club have progressed positively over the past few years with club members showing increased interest in playing for both sides, and with new members improving with experience the potential is there for all to see.

There are still opportunities for members who have shown over the year that they are good enough to now put their names forward to strengthen the squad in readiness for next season.

Good luck to Sully seniors for next Tuesday!

FP

PG10 IN A RECORD-BREAKING SEASON

PG10 Coaching is celebrating a record breaking season with thousands of junior players participating in football activities and over a hundred children progress to join professional football clubs.

The FAW fun football accredited football provider which has a development centre in the Vale, as well as a girls development centre also based in the Vale, provides coaching and sport opportunities for children and young people of all abilities aged between four-17 years old.

Huge praise has been given to the team of coaches at PG10 and also grassroots clubs who voluntary provide local opportunities for children and young people making a huge difference to Welsh football but also promote good values to our next generation so they become better footballers but more importantly better people.

Led and mentored by Neville Southall, a number of PG10 players have gained accredited coach education, child protection and First Aid qualifications.

To aid player development, coaches have also gained insight to Barcelona FC, Valencia FC and Villarreal FC academies and this year will visit Bayern Munich and Real Madrid with its players.

To get involved with PG10 please email petegriff10@hotmail.co.uk or visit www.pg10coaching.co.uk.

PG

Bridge results

VALE of Glamorgan bridge club results for February 2:

1st Barrie Waite & Graham Norris 61.26%, 2nd Liam Sheridan & John Beard 60.86%, 3rd Alan Grant & Margaret Price 60.16%.

LE

CHESS BUBBLE BURSTS

IT was a strange night on Monday.

Three of our teams were all playing on the same night. Usually this would not present a problem as there are more than enough players to be able to select three competitive teams.

However there were a number of players unavailable for all the teams. This meant that players who would normally expect to play for a lower ranked team found themselves drafted into a higher division. We did manage to fill all our teams with no defaults – unfortunately that was as good as it got.

The Bosons travelled to Caerphilly in a division one clash with the Kings. Both sides on paper were evenly matched, but the game is not played on paper and we returned home with our tails firmly between our legs, with only Lee Davis and the reliable Dave Parsons earning draws to leave us with a 4-1 defeat.

The Bosons are now a half point behind our second team, the Barry Camelots, and a whole five points behind the Cardiff Castles.

In division 3 the Quarks entertained the bottom team, the Nelson Griffins. On four of the five boards the players were evenly matched. However, on board three Dave Mahoney, while giving away a 104 rating advantage, was our only winner on the night.

Chris Green on board one managed a good draw to earn us 1.5 points from a possible 5.

With Bridgend beating Rhondda, the Quarks drop to second while the Griffins move off the bottom.

In division four the Gambits, with an inexperienced team, travelled to one of the promotion favourites, Bridgend Central Mallards. Like the Bosons we returned having lost 4-1; our '1' came from a first ever victory for Nick Mavroyenneas on time as his opponent failed to play 30 moves in his alloted 60 minutes. This was an excellent performance in only his second league game.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30pm each Monday at the West End Club. St. Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY.

The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night.

For more details visit our website at barrychessclub.yolasite.com.

Phil Jones

Barry & District ladies skittles league results

RESULTS for week commencing January 19:

First division: Allsorts (S Tierney 30) 283, Barry Stars (T Johnstone 29) 278; Coppers (L Tiley 35) 332, SV Gals (J Richards 33) 327; Colcot Ladies (P Johnson 30) 269, Castaways (J Tobin 28) 249; Red Admiral (K McCarthy 24) 253, Pila Palas (S Bennett 26) 238; Space Finders (D Cleaver 37) 351, Family Affair (J Walden, S Vincent 32) 318; Cigar Ladies (E Simmans 30) 293, Family and Friends (N Provis 31) 303; Special Angels (L Mountford 26) 208, Bakers Dozen (S Martin, M Lewis 28) 292.

Second division: Strikers (L Gould 27) 240, Divas (W Draisey 27) 227; Roller Coasters (J Marriott 26) 222, Witchill Widows (S Hurn 28) 266; Vixens (M Marks 30) 271, After Eights (E Tombs 28) 270; Bobby's Girls (J Barnett 28) 243, S V Lights (P Forrester 26) 262; Castle Bandits (E Evans 29) 264, Witchill Weebies (N Harrhy, S Edwards 25) 227; Cad Con Fillies (S Chilcott 28) 234, Rhoose Starlights (A White, K Bryan 23) 223; Clickies (C Walters 32) 292, Breakaways (V Martin, Dawkins 30) 309.

Third division: Rhoose Ravers (J Bishop 26) 251, Westenders (J Jeynes, C Gee 25) 242; Jolly Dollies (C Thomas 24) 212, Airways Angels (E Lewis 25) 227; Rugby Triers (S Butler 28) 233, Hill Billies (G Moorcroft 25) 229; S V Ladies (K Lacny 29) 280, Dolly Mixtures (L Marsh 35) 285; Lil's Devils (D Harrhy 25) 219, Persuaders (K Phillips 26) 243; Etcetera (C Mackintosh 28) 274, Friends and Neighbours (B Nicholls 30) 272; Witchill Wanderers (V Kerslake 35) 270, Merry Makers (M Payne 30) 360.

Fourth division: Twilights (C Sims 21) 177, Rebels (K Burman, S Oram 22) 208; Challenger (B Griffiths 31) 220, BFFs (C Rees 28) 225; Wyndham Witches (W Williams, Y Curnow 25) 224, Fallen Angels (D Richards 26) 226; Railway Rogues (J Hawkins 26) 189, Boozy Birds (S Rudeforth 33) 213.

Fifth division: Smurfs (E Dee 22) 158, Liberals (F Williams 33) 129.

Cowbridge darts league round-up

ON Tuesday January 27, there was a full programme of league matches.

The Highwayman Inn defeated the Old Post Ladies 7-2, the Edmondes C lost 2-7 to the Edmondes A. In this match Mark Dowling (Edmondes C) hit a 3-dart 180. The other two games Edmondes B won 8-1 against the Farmers Arms and the Hare and Hounds lost 1-8 to Llanharry.

Present league standings after 13 matches, are: Llanharry (96 points), Edmondes B (72), Edmondes A (66), Highwayman Inn (62), Hare and Hounds (54), Farmer's Arms (46), Edmondes C (45) and Old Post Ladies (25).

On Tuesday, February 10, the first round matches in the men's doubles will be played. The venues for these games are the Edmondes Arms and Llanharry Working Men's Club.

All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are welcome. For further information e-mail Paul at cowbridgedarts@gmail.com; up-to-date information can be found on the website: www.darts.apsn.co.uk.

PJT

Cowbridge under-16s overpower Barry RFC

COWBRIDGE under-16s reached new heights with their performance against Barry last week, which overwhelmed their opponents by six tries to one.

In a match where forwards and backs combined to produce a game of fast and furious running and tackling, Barry simply were unable to compete.

The first try came within the first few minutes when quick ball from the scrum and crisp handling through the backs resulted in wing Seán Davies scoring in the corner.

Further tries by Ellis Simon and Max Cunnington and two conversions by outside half Bev Howells saw Cowbridge end the first half leading 19-0.

The second half began with a fight back by the visitors but excellent tackling from Osian John, Sam Palmer and Will Cousins prevented Barry from crossing the line. After weathering the storm Cowbridge eventually began to dominate in all aspects of the game again.

A great run from the halfway line by centre Joe Nott saw him almost reach the line before being tackled but a superb offload to Cameron Roy resulted in a try under the posts.

The Cowbridge pack were now completely in control, led by captain James Holder and ably assisted by Harry Hopkins, Otto Guwy and Josh Evans.

With flanker Duncan Ace winning turnover after turnover it came as no surprise when Kyle May-Rees scored Cowbridge's fifth try.

However, Barry never gave up trying to stem the flow of attacks and were finally rewarded with an interception try which was converted.

The final try was a truly superb effort. Seán Davies gathered the ball from inside his 22-metre line and set off on a 60 yard run, beating five defenders before passing to Bev Howells.

The ball sped along the line to second row Harrison Stevens, who, with a clever hand off, dived over for a brilliant try. Bev Howells converted two of three tries of the half to complete an outstanding win and gain revenge for the narrow defeat inflicted on them by Barry last season.

A very special thank you to the under-15s players, who not only allowed the under-16s to fulfill the fixture, but contributed to an outstanding victory: Angus James, James Guard, Bev Howells, Max Cunnington, Cameron Roy and Ellis Simon.

AD

Wolves shake off rustiness with win

AFTER what seemed months without a game, Dinas Wolves under-12s were the faster out of the blocks on Saturday morning against Cowbridge Reds.

Two well-taken goals from B Harewood gave Dinas an early lead. The home side gave their opponents very little time to settle and played a very direct game.

C Hewitson and C Saunders added two more before the break to walk in with a comfortable four goal cushion.

J Lewis, R Mallum and T Williams looked as solid as ever playing out from the back, while Z Fifield, J Doughty, K Quest and J Pereira worked tirelessly in the midfield.

The second half saw Cowbridge tighten up and it took a while for Dinas to add to their tally. T Williams was unlucky to miss from the spot, sending his attempt wide.

C O'Brien put in a cracking free kick which the Dinas strikers managed to hit the upright with. Frost pushed into the screening role which allowed Dinas to drive on more and goals soon came from a rasping shot from Hewitson and a third to complete his hat-trick from Harewood.

Dinas peppered the Cowbridge goal throughout the second half but were matched by strong defending. J Moss and Mallum made sure D Morris had little to do.

K Booker ran his full back into the ground and was replaced by O'Brien.

In the final kick of the match, Cowbridge were awarded a penalty but Morris comfortably saved it. Man of the match was awarded to B Harewood.

Final score Dinas Powys 6, Cowbridge 0.

LS

WE welcome your news, reports and other items of interest - email us at: *gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk*

Trainer Evan in a Taunton Double

LLANCARFAN'S Evan Williams was in good form at the recent Taunton meeting where he landed an 84-1 double with 16-1 chance *Tornado In Milan* and 4-1 shot *Copper Birch*.

The former, ridden by stable jockey Paul Moloney, won the Superman And War Elephant Challenge Handicap Hurdle and the latter, just over half-an-hour or so later, took the Smokin' Aces Chase Handicap with 5lb claiming conditional jockey Conor Ring in the saddle.

Of *Tornado In Milan,* Evan said: "He won well here last season and the form was good, but we put the hood on him and it turned him off completely. This was a sort of last chance saloon. We changed a lot of things. We were mystifed why he had lost his form, so we took the hood off him and we got rid of the ear plugs. He has a crossed noseband and we got rid of that and stuck a sheepskin noseband on him."

Tornado In Milan won by eight lengths from *Chesll Beach Boy* and *Copper Birch*, who carried top weight, scored by seven lengths from *Mission Complete*.

TIGER RAG

***Tiger Rag*, a six-year-old chestnut gelding owned and trained by Jonathan Tudor at Merthyr Mawr, was a 4-1 winner of the Intermediate race at the Mid Devon Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases at Black Forest Lodge on Sunday.**

Tiger Rag is usually ridden by James Tudor but on this occasion was partnered by Bradley Gibbs, who rides out for Aberthin National Hunt trainer Tim Vaughan.

James Tudor was in action at the South Dorset Hunt Point-To-Point at Milborne St Andrew where he won the Bonham's Men's Open Race on the Alan Hill trained *Harbour Court*.

In a field of 12 runners, *Harbour Court* was made an odds-on favourite and Ogmore's Nick Williams took third place on *Raffa*.

BRIAN LEE

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VAN WORLD

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Brian's (point-to-point) blast from the past – PART TWO: THE 1980s

ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

THIS week, Brian Lee, who has been reporting on the Welsh hunt-racing scene for almost half a century, takes a look back at his press scrap books from the 1980s.

The first yellowing press cutting that appears in my scrapbook for 1981, is about Cowbridge's own John Llewellyn, and under the heading 'Llewellyn Lands 20-1 Winner', reads "*Proud Prince*, ridden by Welsh champion jockey John Llewellyn, landed a division of the Heygate Gold Cup Open race in commanding style at the North Hereford Hunt Point-To-Point."

Proud Prince, a 20-1 outsider, scored by 10 lengths from the favourite *Spartan Scot* and Llewellyn was looking round for non existent dangers on the run-in.

Owner Gordon Lewis, a near neighbour of Llewellyn, said in the paddock after the race that he was "surprised at the result." Sadly, Gordon died a year or two ago.

Proud Prince went on to win the men's open at the Glamorgan at St Hilary that year and Llewellyn also won the members' race there on *Majer Gerard*. I recall that the horse should really have been named *Major Gerard* but owing to a typo, the horse ended up with that name! The heading for a press cutting dated April 13, 1981 reads: "*Fitz* has 25th Win In Style"; And this is what I had to say: "Rose Harry's 15-year-old *Fitz* chalked up his 25th point-to-point success when landing the adjacent event at the Glamorgan Hunt Steeplechases. *Fitz,* who has also won two hunter chases under Rules, finished 22 lengths clear of *Ballydamus*."

Fitz, who was owned and trained by the late Mrs Rose Harry at Dinas Powys, was a handsome chestnut gelding who was also ridden during his long and esteemed racing career by John Llewellyn and Mike Williams.

Under the heading 'Another Thomas Winner' dated May 5, 1981, I reported: "Course inspector Jack Thomas saw his *Cottage Chest* land an easy win in the Barry Glazing Restricted Open race at the Pentyrch Hunt Steeplechases. *Cottage Chest,* who won by a distance from *Dairibright,* was ridden by Mr Thomas's grandson John Thomas of St Athan. Like his grandfather and father, Jim Thomas, 19-year-old John was the third generation of the Thomas family to have ridden a winner at this meeting."

Jim's grandsons, Tom and Evan David of Llanharan, are now carrying on the great tradition and between them they have both ridden many winners.

Moving on to May 25, 1981 and 'Rooney Lands Treble', I reported: "Tim Rooney of Bassaleg landed a treble at the Ystrad Hunt Steeplechases at Llantwit Major with *Ernie The Milk*, *Crosstown* and *Just Mac*. Rooney who is challenging for the National Point-To-Point Riders' Championship has equalled the Welsh record of 15 wins in a season set by John Llewellyn last year. Now he is just two wins behind Ian McKie."

Sadly, an injury was to put Tim on the sidelines and his chance of winning the title vanished.

On June 8, 1981, under the heading 'Rooney's Welsh Record', I wrote: "A round trip of 320 miles paid off for Barry farmer Ted Williams when his *Crosstown* landed the men's open race (Division 1) at the Exmoor Foxhounds Hunt Steeplechases.

"*Crosstown*, who was brilliantly ridden by Bassaleg farrier Tim Rooney beat Grand National runner *Sandwillam* by a length, despite making a mistake at the third last fence and losing a shoe.

"*Crosstown*, who was landing a five-timer, was made a 4/6 favourite and Mr Williams said: 'The journey took us five hours but it was all worth while for *Crosstown's* win has given Rooney a new Welsh record of 16 wins in a season.'"

There was another Welsh success at the meeting when Cardiff saddler John Ayres took the second division of the women's open with his former hurdler *Majetta Crescent*.

Ridden by Shan Morgan, *Majetta Crescent* running in a ladies' race for the first time was backed from 20-1 to 10-1.

Shan Morgan, who turned down a ride on *Moonello,* who finished fifth, said: "*Majetta Crescent* gave me a wonderful ride. He's some horse."

You can e-mail your point-to-point memories/news to brianlee4@virginmedia.com or phone him on 02920736438.

Brian Lee.

Dinas Powys ladies golf

RESULTS from Dinas Powys Golf Club ladies' section:

On December 16, we held a pre Christmas nine hole Stableford: First, Annie Blackburn, 18pts on back 6 from second Pam Warne 18pts; third, Audrey Harwood 16pts on back 6 from Lisa Ryley 16pts.

An Autumn Eclectic was held from October 14- December 16: First, Maxine Hird 38 gross – 5.25 = 32.75 nett; second, Lisa Ryley 37 gross – 4.00 = 33.00nett; third, Annie Blackburn 39 gross – 5.75 = 33.25 nett.

On Tuesday, January 6, a nine hole medal: First, Ann Mahenthiralingam 42 – 6 = 36 nett on back 6 from second Vicki Ellison 54 – 18 =36 nett; third Louise Wilding 42 – 5.5 = 37.5 on back 6 from Pat Gosling 53 – 15.5 nett = 37.5.

On Tuesday, January 13, nine hole Stableford: First, Louise Wilding 17pts; second, Mel King 16pts; third, Ann Mahenthiralingam 14pts.

On Tuesday, January 20, nine hole medal: First, Audrey Harwood 49 gross – 12 = 37 nett; second, Sue Thomas 48 – 10 =38; third, Ann Mahenthiralingam 46 – 6 = 40 nett.

On Tuesday, January 27, a Texas Scramble was held: First, Louise Wilding, Pat Gosling, Moyra Smith 37 – 6.5=30.5 nett; second, Susan Thomas, Frances Stuckey,Vera Hollyman 42 – 7.41 = 34.59; third, Ann Mahenthiralingam, Christine Nelms, Sian Smith 42 – 5.75 = 36.25.

All the ladies had an enjoyable time playing in the winter sunshine.

RY

Cottrell Park runners-up in golf awards

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Tenby beat off strong competition from Cottrell Park, Glynhir, Milford Haven and Pyle and Kenfig.

Ryder Cup star Jamie Donaldson was the Golf Union of Wales touring professional of the year; north Wales' Evan Griffiths the amateur player of the year; Pwllheli's Grace Roberts the volunteer of the year; and Gower's Nicola Stroud the Golf Development Wales PGA professional of the year.

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Good performance is not enough to save Cowbridge RFC from defeat

LAST Saturday Cowbridge travelled to the picturesque setting of Llandaff RFC but came back empty handed despite a good performance, losing 22-5.

It was a sunny afternoon but cold underfoot and both teams locked horns early on. Llandaff scored in five minutes with a driving maul from the lineout and a try for their tight head prop that was converted by their scrum half.

At the midpoint the same player broke clear and second row Emyr Stone tackled him and stripped the ball but playing out of defence resulted in the ball coming back to Llandaff and their No 3 bagged his brace.

With five minutes to halftime Llandaff got their third try with what was a clear forward pass to their outside centre. The first half had seen some outstanding play by Emyr Stone, flanker Luke Boys, his brother Connor and Rhod Walker.

Drafted in at scrum half, Will Thomas had gone well, and with seconds to the whistle outside half Luc Williams made a lovely break, offloaded to centre Kyle Jones, and he had the ball knocked out of his hands when a score seemed likely. The halftime score was 17-0.

Changes in the second half saw Huw Lougher moved to centre, Tom Sterling taking his place at full back. Luc Williams was yellow carded and prop Ben Worrell gave way to Geraint Thomas and Tom Cunnington came on for Jon Phillips, who had given a good account in the tight and loose, including a charged down kick.

Cowbridge had set up some good attacks through Lougher, centre Hywel Davies and Luke Boys. On 25 minutes, Llandaff had their second row sin banned and with 10 minutes to go Rob Langdon replaced wing David Griffiths.

With just five minutes left Llandaff broke through the middle. Their flanker was on hand for the pass and with a try a certainty Langdon tackled him superbly from behind just inches to the line.

Moments later there was another great tackle from Stone. Cruelly, Llandaff got another try from a driving line out maul, but from a penalty Cowbridge moved the ball left and man of match Luke Boys made a break and fed the ball to hooker Rhys Price to crash over for his second try in successive weeks. Final score 22-5.

There was much to admire in the performance but it was another loss. We now have two home games coming up and we must treat them as cup finals and get points out of them or we will be in trouble – being valiant losers won't be enough.

The BC youth had a superb win against Penarth, a team that had pushed them very close early season. No 8 Dan Holder, after his excellent performance with the 1st XV, scored a hat trick of tries in the opening 20 minutes that paved the way for a 46 unanswered point victory.

The centre pairing of Dan Evans, following his excellent 1st XV debut, and Ashford Thomas caused Penarth many problems with their angles of running and aggressive defence.

Man of the match went to Llwd Elms who made huge ground with every carry.

Good luck to Wales on Friday - on Saturday the 1st XV entertain Old Illtydians at home, BC youth take on St Josephs away and the BD youth travel to St Peters, all kick offs at 2.30pm.

The games of the weekend were overshadowed by the very sad news that Berwyn Griffiths had passed away at home aged 43.

Berwyn, a cultured centre, had bravely battled ill health for some time. We think of his wife Lisa and three children, parents Alun and Janice, brother Geraint, his wider family and many friends at this time.

RV/RK

Under-14s' impressive win

COWBRIDGE under-14s warmed up for the quarter-final of the Blues Cup this weekend with an impressive win away at NHSOB.

Earlier in the season Newport had beaten Cowbridge 12-5 in an excellent game of rugby, the only difference this Sunday was the scoreline.

At the start of the game, Cowbridge showed great determination and courage to defend their line at all costs. For the first 20 minutes Cowbridge could not get out of their own 22. The boys were heroic in their defence, they held their defensive structure and everyone executed their roles exceptionally well.

However, Newport opened the scoring with a scrambled try out on the right wing. Cowbridge had managed to regain possession at the breakdown only for Newport to come straight through the middle of the ruck and fly hack the ball over the Cowbridge line.

First to react to the loose ball was the Newport second row, who dived across the line to score.

Cowbridge drew the game level following a powerful scrum against a much larger set of forwards. The scrum had been awarded to Newport, but the Cowbridge front row (Harry Bluck, Lewis Hawke and Barty Norton) managed to disrupt the ball as the Newport scrum half was about pass.

From the bouncing pass Evan Thomas managed to get his boot to the ball and outpaced the covering Newport defence to score an opportunist's try.

Cowbridge maintained their pressure for the next five minutes and looked the more likely to score the game's next try. However, Newport played the conditions well and used the strong wind at their backs to keep Cowbridge out.

Following one of these huge clearing kicks, Newport got their second try of the game. The ball took an unfortunate bounce away from the oncoming Cowbridge full back.

The quick Newport centre was first to the free ball; he gathered the ball and made a run for the line. A great tackle by Barny Langdon-Cryer stopped him from scoring, but the centre managed to get his pass away to his right winger who was in support for him to score out wide. The halftime score was NHSOB 10, Cowbridge 5.

With the wind at their backs Cowbridge turned round in a confident mood. They used this wind straight from the kick off, putting Newport under pressure deep inside their own 22.

As Newport had done in the first half, they tried to kick themselves out of pressure. However with the wind now against them they struggled to get any distance on their kicks. Cowbridge took the lead from one of these clearing kicks.

Dixon collected the clearing kick and managed to secure possession after the Newport backs had all rushed after the ball. When the ball came back on the Cowbridge side, Ioan Williams saw the opportunity to run the ball back at Newport.

Williams fed his half back partner Thomas who, with a simple but effective long pass off his left, put Dan O'Sullivan through a gap.

With a subtle dummy and a good turn of pace O'Sullivan beat the scrambled Newport defence to score under the posts. I.Williams converted.

To be fair to Newport they came straight back at Cowbridge, and secured a scrum just outside the Cowbridge 22. A clever grubber kick from the Newport outside half gave the opportunity for the Newport centre to score his team's third try of the game.

The Cowbridge defence was up quickly however good vision from the outside half saw Newport regain the lead.

With the game entering its final stages and the conditions getting more and more difficult, Cowbridge produced their best spell of rugby. Following a number of short passes and powerful runs from the forwards Cowbridge found themselves deep inside the Newport 22. R.Williams and Jack Little were making the hard yards time after time.

Cowbridge regained the lead after an incredible run by their tight head prop, Barty Norton. Norton picked the ball up with 10 metres to go, burst through one tackle, had another defender on his back and although tackled again managed to score an incredible solo try.

With minutes to go Newport began to throw the ball around to try and regain the lead. However, the ball went to ground and O'Sullivan kicked the ball towards the Newport try line.

A foot race ensued O'Sullivan managed to get his foot to the ball first, and with a dive for the line, he touched the bottom of the goalposts with the ball. I.Williams converted.

With the last play of the game E.Thomas made a lovely break from just outside the Newport 22, and with a simple pass put R.Williams in for the game's final try.

GJ

The school's netballers were in fine form in the Ann Smart tournament.

Latest sports news from Cowbridge Comprehensive

COWBRIDGE were hosts to Llanishen and Howells in the preliminary Cardiff and the Vale hockey tournament for Year 9.

Cowbridge played Llanishen first. Llanishen were a strong team and had most of the possession throughout the game, but the defence and goalkeeper Freya Johnston, defended well throughout.

Unfortunately, Freya felt dizzy in the second half and came off, allowing Llanishen to get a goal. The game finished 1-0.

Howells then lost to Llanishen 2-0. Cowbridge played Howells next. On a freezing night the Cowbridge girls had got cold and struggled with cold hands. However, they played well throughout, with a few missed opportunities when awarded short corners. Howells however took advantage of a break and scored. Final result was 1-0 to Howells. Well done to the Cowbridge girls.

Team: Freya Johnston, Annie Jones, Ffion Langston, Sarah Jones, Rachel Anstey, Laura Annetts, Meriel Clode, Mali Howell, Georgia Armitage, Emily Jenkins, Ffion McNamee, Sophie Rees, Eleanor Acey, Kasey John and Freya Evans.

Cowbridge Year 10 hockey team played Glantaf on Thursday, January 22. We were expecting a tough match as Glantaf are a strong team, but we kept strong in the first half.

Everyone in the team was tackling and putting pressure on the strong attackers from Glantaf which looked very impressive from the sideline. Glantaf had many strong attacking players but our defensive players Emma and Izzy refused to let them score and demonstrated some excellent goal saving tackles.

When we had the ball we were finding it difficult to get the ball up the pitch as we were just hitting the ball back to Glantaf. Our midfielders were working very hard to support both midfield and attack. We had some chances to score but we could not get it past the strong defence of Glantaf.

In the second half Glantaf attacked frequently and came away with four goals to finish the game 4-0. Player of the match: Emma Macey

Cowbridge Year 10 hockey team then played Bro Morgannwg on Thursday, January 15. We started slow in the cold and wet weather and it took some time to get into the game. Bro Morgannwg started strong and put pressure on our defence.

Unfortunately we did not have a goalkeeper and therefore we were vulnerable. Emma and Izzy stepped in as deep defenders and tackled very well to keep them out of the circle.

Bro Morgannwg received a short corner and took the lead. Cowbridge upped the tempo after the goal and began tackling and attacking strongly, we were back in the game. Mali and Sophie worked excellently in the middle proving excellent passes out wide and into Bro Morgannwg's half but we were unable to score. Cowbridge kept working hard but Bro Morgannwg stormed ahead scoring another three goals before the final whistle. Player of the match: Sophie Oddy.

Team: Emma Macey, Sophie Oddy, Esme Freeman, Claudia Esquirol, Hannah Sloan, Sian Pritchard, Lowri Gambling, Amy Williams, Izzy Davies.

A big thank you to the Year 9 girls who played in this game, Mali Howell and Emily Jenkins.

NETBALL

The under-16 netball team played in the Ann Smart preliminary tournament at Whitchurch against Whitchurch and Radyr.

In an exciting match against Radyr, Cowbridge deserved the win by one goal; the final score was 10-9. Selina Radcliffe, goal defence, was awarded player of the match for her excellent defence and feeding the ball into the attacking circle.

Unfortunately, Whitchurch fielded an illegible team with over-16s in their team, so were unable to go through if they had won. Regardless, Cowbridge beat Whitchurch 10-6; again Selina Radcliffe was awarded player of the match. Cowbridge now go through to the Ann Smart tournament final - good luck girls.

Team: Annabel Hegarty, Selina Radcliffe, Nia Davies, Olivia Jones, Jemma Viney, Beth Swallow, Ffion Vickers and Libby Jones.

RUGBY

Ospreys under-18s beat the Blues 43-14 in convincing fashion at the Caerphilly Centre for Sporting Excellence in Ystrad Mynach to lift the WRU under-18 regional trophy.

Having lost 33-0 to the Blues in Swansea in November, the Ospreys have picked up their performance levels of late and beat the Blues in the return match earlier this month, so a tight encounter was expected but the Ospreys were well and truly the best side on the night.

Steffan James' side got off to a great start, scoring five first half tries in front of a large crowd. They were particularly organised, with many notable performances, scrum half Matthew Aubrey, centre Owen Watkin and wing Keelan Giles just a few of the backline who stood out.

Prop Callum Jones scored the first from a driving lineout with Wales under-18s wing Rhys Gealy soon joining him on the scoresheet, both tries converted by outside half Phil Jones.

Wales under-20 squad member Watkin ran over for two fine, well-worked efforts. The fifth try went to inside centre Keiran Williams after good link-up play between the backs and excellent support from Giles.

The Blues finally got on the scoreboard with the last play of the half, Wales under-18 prop Kieron Assirratti claiming the touchdown after a period of pressure. Callum Hall converted taking the halftime score to 31-7.

The Blues narrowed the gap with another after the break, this time to full back Curtis Povey which Hall also improved. However, the comeback was shortlived and Keelan Giles twice showed a clean pair of heels to take the Ospreys out of sight, Matthew Aubrey converting the second.

Ospreys head coach Steffan James said: "It was the best performance of the season without a doubt and to do that in the final is something special. The Blues are a quality side – we took an old fashioned thrashing from them in November – but we have really turned the season around since then and that is credit to the boys."

Captain Will Jones added: "It was an excellent performance, you couldn't ask for a better end to the regional season, especially after such a slow start. The last game against the Blues was really tight but the boys really switched it on tonight which is really pleasing."

Cowbridge Comprehensive were represented by eight players included in the Blues squad for the final - well done to all boys who have been involved!

Bridge results

PENLLYN Bridge Club, January results:

Thursday, January 8 (20 pairs) - 1st Sally Kennedy & Annie Jones 61.32%, 2nd Mansel Thomas & Mike Baron 61.11%, 3rd Joyce Hollway & Ian Dunglinson 58.08%.

Thursday, January 15 (15 pairs) - 1st Helen & Mike Ruttley 64.58%, 2nd Catherine Domican & John Hunter 63.33%, 3rd Julie Evans & Mairwen Edwards 58.33%.

Thursday, January 22 (20 pairs) - 1st Allan Evans & Gill Wybrow 60.35%, 2nd Barbara Easterbrook & Marian East 59.09%, 3rd Hugh & Margaret Thomas 58.89%.

Thursday, January 29 (Robert Brown Cup, 18 pairs) - 1st Ian Dunglinson & Joyce Hollway 61.36%, 2nd Colin & Judith Nunn 55.54%, 3rd Glenda Roberts & Mary Wallis 55.1%.

CN

SIX NATIONS RUGBY

FIRST UP, ENGLAND!

THE WELSH SQUAD GET SET FOR A MOMENTOUS CAMPAIGN

The train standing at Cardiff station on February 6 will be the 20.05, terminating in Twickenham at 20.00 on September 26

BACK PAGE COMMENT

by Don John

IT'S the one rugby supporters on both sides of the Severn most look forward to as winter starts to loosen its grip – Wales versus England in the Six Nations – but the 126th clash between these two arch rivals, at the bizarre time of 8.05pm in Cardiff tomorrow night, has more than national pride at stake.

For this just happens to be Rugby World Cup year and the two are drawn to meet in Pool D of the global knockout tournament at Twickenham on September 26 – which could see one of them make an unwelcome early exit.

Both will aim to use the Millennium Stadium face-off, not only to launch their bid for the coveted Six Nations title, but also to implant early doubts in the minds of their opponents – and complete a morale-boosting psychological 'double' long before the RWC tournament kicks off.

Both sides also know full well the scale of the challenge facing them. After all, in a seesaw 125 years since February 19, 1881 (when England defeated a cobbled together Welsh XV 30-0), the Dragon has triumphed 56 times and amassed a total of 1,450 points; while the Rose has blossomed 57 times, and totalled 1,640 points – with 12 matches drawn.

After the initial setback, the early years were dominated by Wales' first golden era, and subsequently the '70s 'super side' reigned supreme, when Doctor JPR (he of the headband, sideburns and rolled down socks!) was the scourge of Twickenham).

Things began to take an ominous turn in the '80s, and the Welsh Dark Ages of the '90s finally saw the pendulum swing to all-powerful England, who won 16 games to Wales' two between 1990-2004. The stranglehold was briefly broken with the first Welsh Grand Slam of the modern era in 2005 under Mike Ruddock, who was succeeded by Gareth Jenkins – which two years later, saw a mix-and-match Welsh team blown apart (62-5) at Twickenham, just weeks before setting off to the Rugby World Cup in France.

There they suffered the even more public ignominy of an early flight home after being unwisely sucked into a Barbarians-like try fest by so-called international minnows, Fiji.

It saw the peremptory dismissal of Jenkins and his replacement by current coach, Kiwi Warren Gatland, who made an immediate impact with a shock win (26-19) at fortress Twickenham, launching the first of two more Grand Slams – in 2008 and 2012.

He and his coaching team have since cemented the rebirth of Welsh rugby, albeit in a major shift from traditional, off-the-cuff Welsh play to the more hard-nosed, confrontational style favoured in this ruthlessly professional era.

In boxing terms, it is more akin to Rocky Marciano than stylish Joe Erskine!

This was shown to devastating effect in the corresponding fixture two years ago, when high-flying England came to Cardiff hunting a Grand Slam and were crushed 30-3, amid unprecedented scenes in a white-hot Millennium Stadium, Wales wresting the championship from their stunned grasp.

The boot was on the other foot in this topsy-turvy tale of two cities at Twickenham last year, when the men in white had their revenge in a 29-18 victory that this time deprived Wales of the title!

On Wednesday, canny Gatland completely wrong-footed the English camp (and the entire sporting media) with a neat sidestep more reminiscent of the great Phil Bennett himself than an ex member of the front row union, by suddenly announcing his team sheet on Monday, a full 48 hours earlier than expected.

Shrugging off any suggestion that he was playing one of his famous mind games, he merely said: "*We decided to name the team early to give the players the best possible chance of preparation*."

Explaining why he had reverted to his tried and tested line-up by recalling 'exiles' George North and Richard Hibbard, he admitted: "*It was a tough call on the two changes we have made to the side that beat South Africa 12-6 in the autumn (the in-form Scarlets' full back, Liam Williams and Ospreys hooker Scott Baldwin) but it's good to have these and other tough selection decisions and it's a strong position to be in.*

"We are excited about kicking off on Friday against a strong England side in front of a packed Millennium Stadium," he added without a hint of irony, given that the injury-hit England camp are shorn of a dozen front rank players, while for once Wales will be fielding his preferred line-up.

Thus the scene appears to be set for a repeat of that memorable 2013 triumph, with the Welsh shock troops again poised to overwhelm their depleted rivals from over the border with another powerhouse display – and surmount the first hurdle to a possible fourth Grand Slam, which would set them up very nicely to pursue Gatland's fixed goal – and rugby's 'holy grail' – the Webb Ellis Cup.

A heady scenario, but the wily campaigner knows only too well that it would be foolish to underestimate the formidable strength in depth of opponents, who, despite an alarming injury list that would decimate Wales were the situation reversed, are still capable of overcoming the odds against them. Always provided, of course, they can overcome the paralysing effect of a mind-numbing, hostile Millennium Stadium in full voice, which undid them two years ago.

In the circumstances, how the two teams have prepared, for what both accept is an encounter of huge psycbological importance, could be crucial to the outcome.

Curiously, and with one eye on the World Cup campaign, the Welsh coaches appear to have needed to concentrate on improving the players' physical fitness – which in a professional age should surely be taken as read?

That this is deemed necessary, puts a question mark over the four professional Regions, in particular, and may go some way to explaining their continued lack of success at the highest levels in Europe.

The English, on the other hand, though without many of their first choice players, have no such concerns, for the replacements come buoyant and match-hardened from more successful battles in Europe.

Even so, Wales know they will never have a better opportunity to down the old enemy. All in all, it promises to be another enthralling occasion for the Millennium Stadium faithful!

WALES TEAM

Leigh Halfpenny (Toulon); Alex Cuthbert (Blues), Jonathan Davies (ASM Clermont Auvergne), Jamie Roberts (Racing Metro), George North (Northampton Saints); Dan Biggar (Ospreys), Rhys Webb (Ospreys); Gethin Jenkins (Blues), Richard Hibbard (Gloucester), Samson Lee (Scarlets), Jake Ball (Scarlets), Alun Wyn Jones (Ospreys), Sam Warburton (Blues, Capt), Dan Lydiate (Ospreys), Taulupe Faletau (Dragons).

REPLACEMENTS: Scott Baldwin (Ospreys), Paul James (Bath Rugby), Aaron Jarvis (Ospreys), Luke Charteris (Racing Metro), Justin Tipuric (Ospreys), Mike Phillips (Racing Metro), Rhys Priestland (Scarlets), Liam Williams (Scarlets).